



HELPER & BAKER

NO.13 • AUG'88 • \$1.75/\$2.50CAN • SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

THE SHADOW



SEVEN DEADLY FINNS • Part 6



DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103
Jenelle Kahn, President and Publisher
Dick Giordano, Vice Pres.-Executive Editor
Mike Carlin, Editor
Renee Witterstaetter, Ass't. Editor
Richard Bruning, Art Director
Terri Cunningham, Mgr.-Editorial Admin.
Pat Bastienne, Mgr.-Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis, Production Director
Paul Levitz, Executive Vice President
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres.-Creative Director
Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director
Matthew Ragone, Circulation Director
Patrick Caldon, Controller

Okay, let's see—

We missed a lettercol last issue (pardon our sarongs, ladies and gentlemen, so here's a little reminder of the things we were talking about here in *Shadowmania: Shadow Team-Ups*. We will also be addressing Kyle Baker's first two issues of work on the SHADOW (#8 and #9). Good—with the status quo re-established, it's time to introduce the conflict via your correspondence...

Dear Mike:

I have written previously to this letter column, stating that Bill Sienkiewicz is one of my absolute favorite artists. When I heard that he would be leaving THE SHADOW, the thought of canceling it off my subscription list at the comic store had well occurred to me. I am sure that this thought had crossed the minds of many of the regular readers of THE SHADOW as well. Now such might result in a big loss of sales to DC. This would be a problem. So in order to help tame the panicking readers, I knew there would be the usual editorial plug to introduce the new talent. It seems that the bigger the talent to be leaving a book, the bigger the plug given to the new talent taking over the title. So when in the pages of THE SHADOW, Sienkiewicz's successor—Kyle Baker—was said to have "what it takes to set the comic world on fire!" I thought to myself, "Yeah, right! What else are they going to say? After all, DC doesn't want to lose all those readers." So when THE SHADOW #8 came out in the local comic book store last Friday, I expected to see a now very average looking title.

Wow! Was I wrong!

Sorry about doubting you guys, it seems that all that was said about Kyle was very sincere indeed. Now, don't I feel like an ass for doubting you so. Please, I ask your forgiveness.

This book still retains the same level of visual excitement and drama as it did when Sienkiewicz was at the reins. That is a huge compliment, coming from as big a Sienkiewicz fan as myself. In other words, from what I have seen so far, I think Kyle Baker is great!

As for SHADOW #8 itself, it looks like it's going to be another fantastic multiparter, well worth following the very successful "Shadows and Light." I suspect that before this story is over, the Shadow will free the "Prong Murderer" from his police custody. Perhaps he will even become part of the Shadow's organization. After all, the Shadow does have an unusual appreciation for the fellow.

Again, I am very pleased with the course this book is taking. It continues every month to be a great source of reading pleasure. I might even dare say that you have a ground-breaking book here. However, I believe that it will not be until a couple of years down the road, and in retrospect, that the book will be fully appreciated.

Finally, I have changed my position on the Batman crossover idea. No matter how much I thought I might like to see my favorite character in this book, I am now of the feeling that it would only soil the credibility of this comic. It would, as said, increase sales ... but in the long run, the book would do better without such a team-up. If there is to be a crossover at all, I feel that Doc Savage and the Phantom would be better choices.

Thanks for your time.

Michael Moynihan
20 Varsplain Place N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
CANADA T3A-0C7

No, thank you, Michael.

Dear Shadow Alliance:

The new SHADOW series is a master stroke of comic book noir. *Magnifique! Grandioso! Prodigioso! Ausstehen! August!* THE SHADOW is the most enjoyable comic I have ever read and well worth the \$1.75 I religiously spend on it every month. I think the greatest compliment I can pay you all—beyond covering you all in polysyllabic polyglot—is that THE SHADOW is the *only* comic I read.

Now with that out of the way—let me say that as a fan of the expertise behind THE SHADOW, I normally wouldn't write, my philosophy being that with the talent you all possess there is not much that you can do wrong. And as for the fan mail I would just as soon see you all putting out the next issue of THE SHADOW than reading my letter.

Normally,

I am writing this letter mostly to address this Shadow/Team-up *Schund*. Kill this Shadow/Team-up animal now. Team-ups and crossovers would ruin the atmosphere of THE SHADOW. You have a good thing going with THE SHADOW; don't destroy it.

Benton Tucker
7109 Buchanan Street
Landover Hills, MD 20784

You left out Ellsway! in your little lesson in languages foreign, Benton—but thanks for all the kind words you did use (we like to think they all translate

into kind words, at least). Also, even with all the talent you say is lounging around this title, we still managed to mess up having a letter column last issue! Oh, well.

Consider your vote counted in the great Shadow/Team-up debate, Benton, and thanks for writing—'cause reading the mail never kept us from getting an issue to the stands (Heller always comes up with better excuses than that!)

Dear Andy, Mike and Kyle:

THE SHADOW #8 wasn't my first exposure to Kyle Baker's artwork. I'd seen his inks in various Marvel titles and his full art in *Codename: Danger*. I enjoyed his art whenever I saw it and was glad that he was finally getting a regular series. However, I had become so accustomed to Bill Sienkiewicz's renditions of the Shadow and his agents that I wasn't sure I could adjust so quickly to another artist's interpretations. I was wrong. THE SHADOW is still as exciting as rock and roll.

Stylistically, Kyle and Bill are at opposite ends of the spectrum. Sienkiewicz's art is highly expressionistic, giving a wildly exaggerated sense of action and character. Baker is almost photorealistic. He's much more hard-edged, less organic than Bill—yet still different than Howard Chaykin and Marshall Rogers, two other realistic SHADOW artists. He's great! So far, this series has yet to disappoint. Let's hope that Kyle Baker sticks around for a few years.

This story looks like it's off to a good start. The Shadow's methodical march through the prostitutes and pimps and the following destruction of the blockhouse was fantastic. And exactly what the character would have done in the Thirties, if these conditions had existed back then. I've heard a lot of hue and cry among fans about the revival and updating of the Shadow. Personally, I'm glad to see him appearing regularly. After all, he was incredibly popular for, what, more than fifteen years? So why should he be any less popular today? And, as for updating him, the only reason the original stories were set in the Thirties and Forties was because that's when they were written. Today's Shadow stories should not be any less contemporary.

Anyway, I was talking about this month's plot. It makes perfect sense for the Shadow to let the Prong Killer get away. After all, the man was after men

CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER

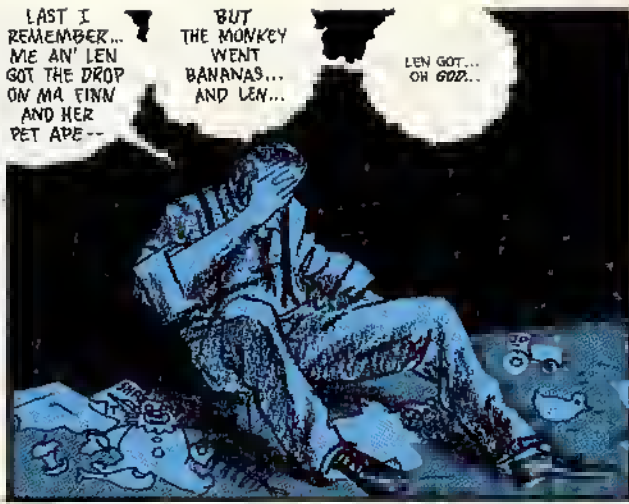


OOHH...
WHAT
HIT ME...?

LAST I
REMEMBER...
ME AN' LEN
GOT THE DROP
ON MA FINN
AND HER
PET APE--

BUT
THE MONKEY
WENT
BANANAS...
AND LEN...

LEN GOT...
OH GOD...



WHERE
THE HELL
AM I???



squeek
eek

grrrr



RRRRGGGHHH



OH
MAN...

N-NICE
M-MONKEY--
NICE
M-MONKEY--

RRRRGGGHHH



HHHHHH??

BEPPU!
WHAT'S
GOING ON
DOWN
THERE?!



GET UP HERE
RIGHT NOW--
THERE'S MORE
CLEANING
TO DO!

RRRRRUUGGH!

AND NO
BACK TALK!
YOU'VE
ALREADY DONE
ENOUGH
DAMAGE FOR
ONE DAY!



I
SWEAR!
SOMETIMES
YOU'RE MORE
TROUBLE
THAN YOU'RE
WORTH!

RRRRRUUGGH!



WHAT NOW, MAGNET...?

WHEN A GORILLA KILLS YOUR PARTNER, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

CAN'T AFFORD TO GO UP AND TANGLE WITH THAT APE-- SO I'VE GOT TO FIND *ANOTHER* WAY OUT OF THIS STINKING HELL-HOLE--



HMMM... LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT COMPANY.



WHOEVER DUMPED ME WITH THESE STUPIDS MUST THINK I'M DEAD, TOO-- BUT THE CHIMP KNEW BETTER-- HE PUT ME WITH HIS *TOYS* INSTEAD OF ON THE HEAP WITH *THEM*...

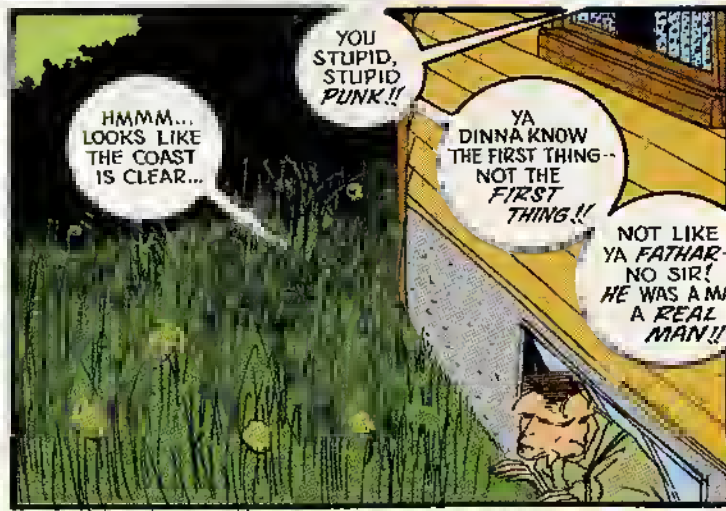
...JIT I GOT A FEELING HE'S ALREADY *BORED* WITH ME-- SO I'VE GOT TO GET *GONE*--

...AND THERE'S MY TICKET OUT OF HERE!

--THAT LIGHT! IT MIGHT BE COMING FROM--



I KNEW IT-- A WINDOW!



HMMM... LOOKS LIKE THE COAST IS CLEAR...

YOU STUPID, STUPID PUNK!!

YA DINNA KNOW THE FIRST THING-- NOT THE *FIRST* THING!!

NOT LIKE YA *FATHAR*-- NO SIR! HE WAS A MAN-- A *REAL* MAN!!



NOBODY PUSHED HIM AROUND-- N-O-N-O-B-O-D-Y!

STUPID KIDS-- YOU AN' YER BROTHERS! GET YASELVES *KILLED*!!

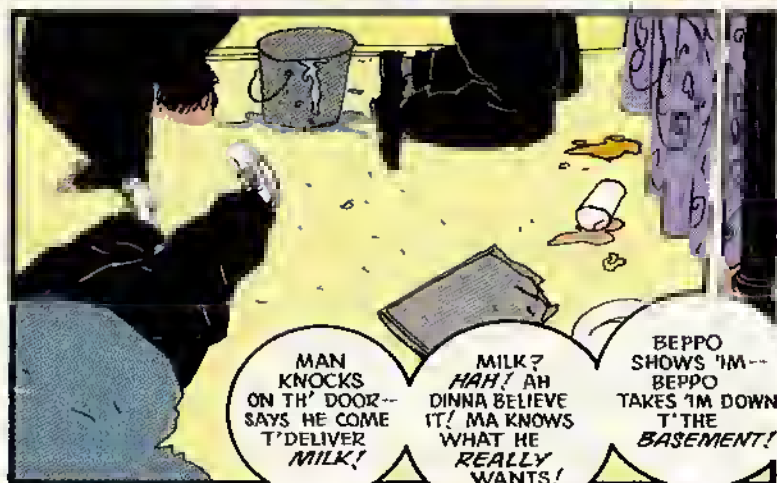
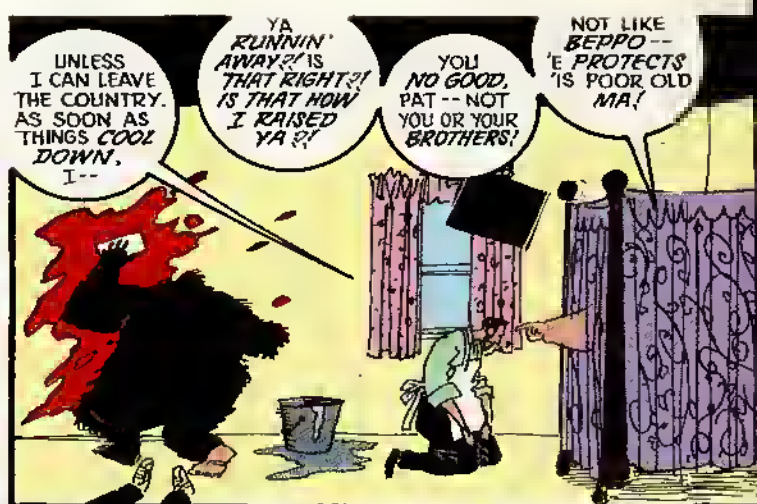
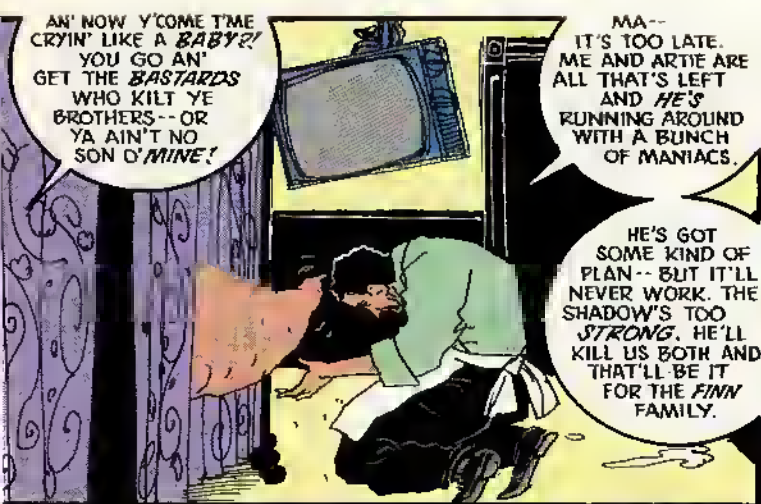
THAT'S NO WAY TO RUN A *BUSINESS*!



AN' YER POOR OLD *MOTHER*-- SICK AS A *DOG*! BUT DO YA COME AN' VISIT? *NO*!

ONLY TIME I HEAR FROM YA-- IT'S WHEN ONE O' YOU UP AN' *DIES*!

EVEN THEN, SOMETIMES I SEE IT ON THE *TEEVEE* FIRST!





HELL, YEAH... LOOKIT -- HE AIN'T BRUISED AT ALL... LITTLE BLUE, THOUGH...

WONDER WHAT HIS STORY WAS...

BE A WHILE 'FORE WE CAN FIND OUT -- WHEN I CALLED IN HIS I.D. TO H.Q., CARDONA'S ASSISTANT TOLD ME TO JUST SIT TIGHT TILL THEY SHOWED UP.

FUNNY... WE FIND WEIRDOS LIKE HIM DEAD IN THE PARK EVERY DAY...

...BUT THIS ONE, CARDONA AND HIS BOY MAX DECIDE TO TAKE PERSONAL...

HEY... MAYBE THEY'RE RELATED--?

MAYBE, MAGUIRE -- HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ASK--

SCREEECHHHH

ALL RIGHT, MEN-- JUST STAND AWAY FROM HIM-- LET ME THROUGH--

MAX!! CONARN IT, BOY! GET YOUR BUTT BACK HERE! JUST WHO DO YOU THINK IS IN CHARGE OF THIS INVESTIGATION?!

MAX! ARE YOU DEAF?! YOU MAY HAVE DRAGGED ME OUT HERE -- BUT I'M STILL YOUR BOSS, DAMMIT! FORGET THAT AND I'LL HAVE YOU POUNDING A BEAT AGAIN, JUST LIKE --

OH.

SORRY, MAX, I DIDN'T--

YOU KNEW HIM--?

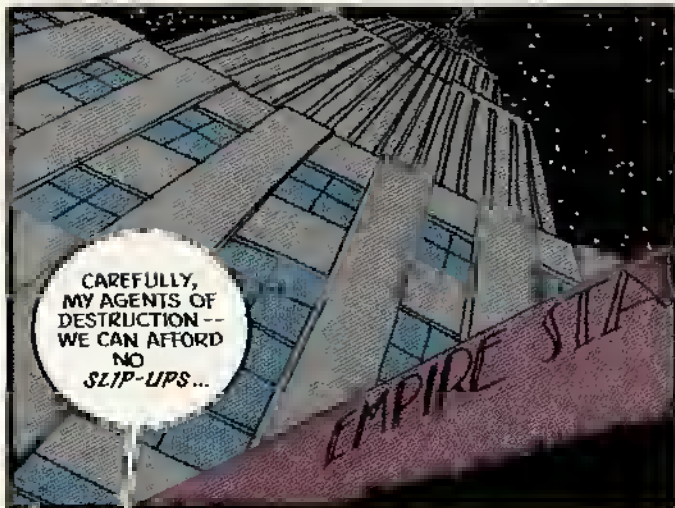
THEY CAN TAKE HIM AWAY NOW...

DON'T YOU WORRY, MAX! WE'LL CATCH WHOEVER DID THIS!

ONCE THE BOYS IN FORENSICS HAVE A CHANCE TO POKE AROUND INSIDE YOUR PAL, FIND OUT WHAT CROAKED HIM, WE'LL BE ON THE TRAIL--

YES, SIR...

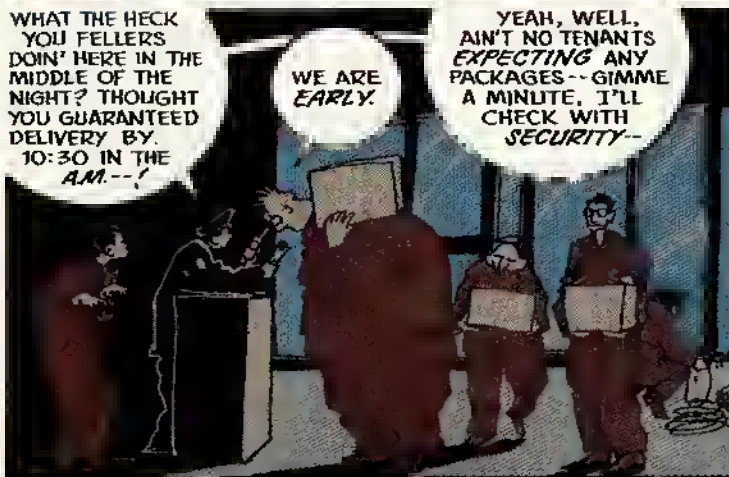
YES, SIR... HE WAS... A FRIEND...



CAREFULLY,
MY AGENTS OF
DESTRUCTION --
WE CAN AFFORD
NO
SLIP-UPS...



AND REMEMBER:
YOU ARE DOING
YOUR *MASTERS*'
WILL NOW...



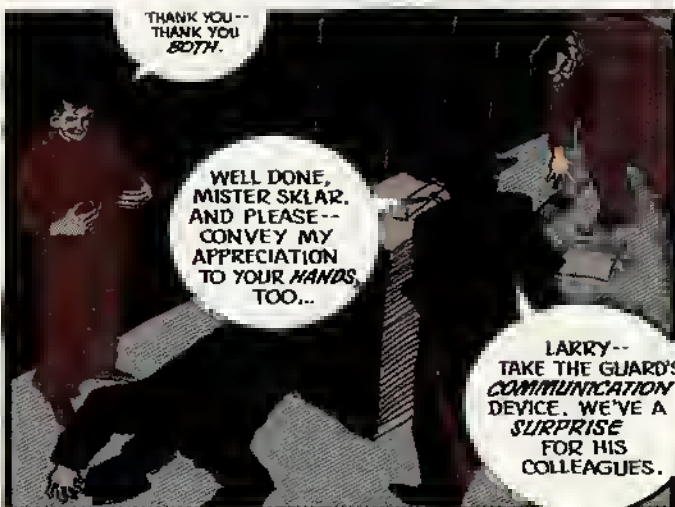
WHAT THE HECK
YOU FELLERS
DOIN' HERE IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT? THOUGHT
YOU GUARANTEED
DELIVERY BY
10:30 IN THE
AM. --!

WE ARE
EARLY.

YEAH, WELL,
AIN'T NO TENANTS
EXPECTING ANY
PACKAGES -- GIMME
A MINUTE, I'LL
CHECK WITH
SECURITY --



GABGABGAB



THANK YOU --
THANK YOU
BOTH.

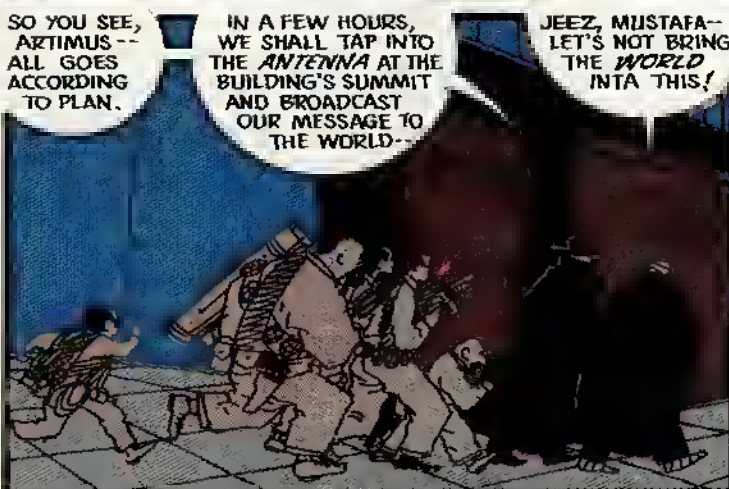
WELL DONE,
MISTER SKLAR.
AND PLEASE --
CONVEY MY
APPRECIATION
TO YOUR HANDS
TOO...

LARRY --
TAKE THE GUARD'S
COMMUNICATION
DEVICE. WE'VE A
SURPRISE
FOR HIS
COLLEAGUES.



MARVIN -- LOCK THE
DOORS -- AND ATTACH
THE *DETONATOR'S* AS
WE DISCUSSED. WE
WOULD NOT WANT
ANYONE TO
INTERRUPT OUR
WORK.

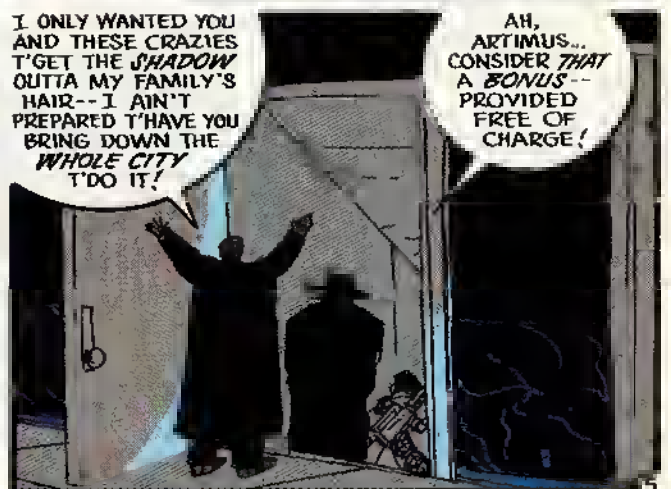
THE REST OF YOU --
SUIT UP AND
PREPARE TO
ENTER THE
BASEMENT...



SO YOU SEE,
ARTIMUS --
ALL GOES
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.

IN A FEW HOURS,
WE SHALL TAP INTO
THE *ANTENNA* AT THE
BUILDING'S SUMMIT
AND BROADCAST
OUR MESSAGE TO
THE WORLD --

JEEZ, MUSTAFA --
LET'S NOT BRING
THE *WORLD*
INTA THIS!



I ONLY WANTED YOU
AND THESE CRAZIES
T'GET THE *SHADOW*
OUTTA MY FAMILY'S
HAIR -- I AIN'T
PREPARED T'HAVE YOU
BRING DOWN THE
WHOLE CITY
T'DO IT!

AH,
ARTIMUS...
CONSIDER THAT
A *BONUS* --
PROVIDED
FREE OF
CHARGE!

LOOK *WELL*, MY AGENTS.
THE VERY FOUNDATION OF
THE GREATEST MONUMENT
TO CAPITALIST, GODLESS
AMERICA
SPRAWLS OUT
BEFORE YOU.

BEFORE
THIS NIGHT IS
OVER, WE WILL
SHAKE IT, AND
WHAT IT STANDS
FOR, TO THE
GROUND!

MARVIN--
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO
DO.

YESSIR!
WHAT I DO
BEST!

AND MARVIN-- PLEASE
GIVE *ME* THE DETONATOR.
YOU KNOW HOW YOUR
ENTHUSIASM HAS A
WAY OF GETTING
THE BETTER
OF YOU...

AW,
SHUCKS...

NOW, THEN--
AS MARVIN
COMPLETES THE
MINING OF THE
STRUCTURAL
SUPPORTS, WE
WILL BEGIN
OUR NEXT
PHASE.

ARTIMUS--?

HEY,
NO WAY--FROM
HERE ON IN,
I'M JUST AN
OBSERVER,
OKAY?

I AM AFRAID NOT.
I NEED YOUR *VOICE*--
ONLY *YOUR* NATIVE
NEW YORK *DIALECT*
CAN CONVINCE THE
OTHER GUARDS THAT
YOU ARE ONE OF
THEM--

ONLY *YOU*
CAN BRING THEM
TO *US*. DO NOT
FORCE MY HAND,
ARTIMUS.
DO IT.

AW, JEEZ...

ALL UNITS! UMM... OFFICER
DOWN! AHH... IN SUBLEVEL 3!
THERE'S... UMMMM... SOME KINDA
BIG GREEN ALLIGATOR MONSTER
DOWN HERE! CHEWIN' ON
MY BUTT-- I--

THAT IS *NOT* FUNNY,
ARTIMUS. YOU WILL
PAY THE PRICE
FOR YOUR
BETRAYAL--

AKKKK!! ROGER, UNIT
ONE-- WE READ YOU!
ALL UNITS-- ASSEMBLE
AND CONVERGE ON
SUBLEVEL 3!

AMAZING.
THEY
BELIEVED IT.

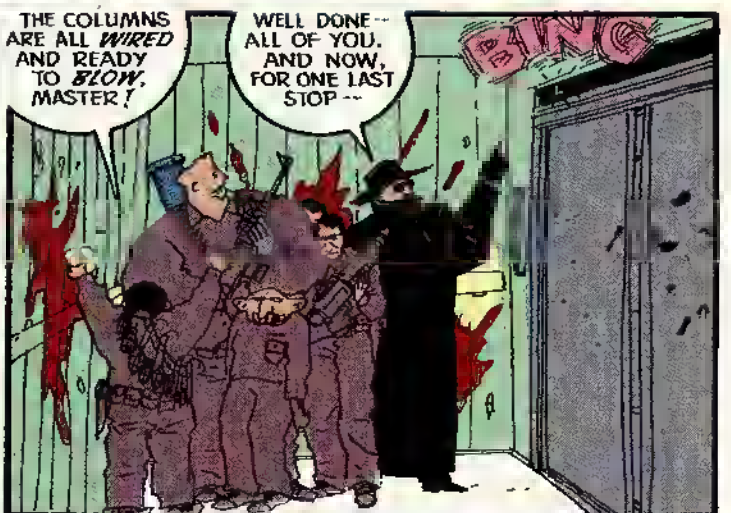
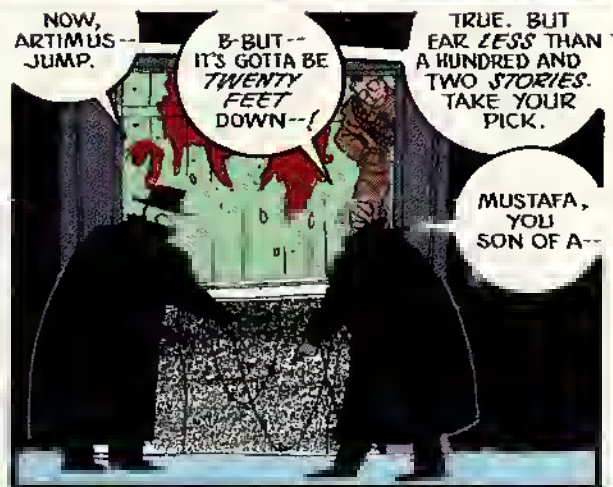
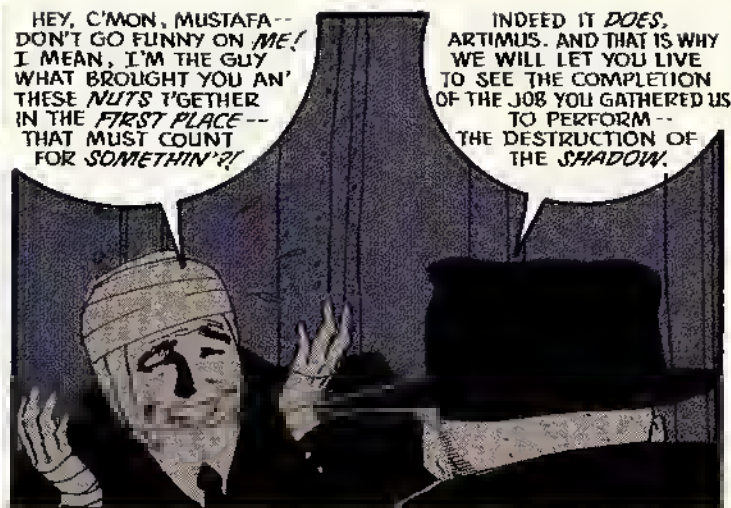
PAR
FOR THE
COURSE,
I GUESS...

AGENTS--
POSITION
YOURSELVES.
GET
READY...

...AIM--

--FIRE!

BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BR



WE'LL
GET THEM,
LITTLE
BUDDY...I
SWEAR
IT...

FORENSICS

WHEN THE OLD-TIMERS
GOT KILLED, IT DIDN'T
REALLY HURT...THEY
WERE BEFORE MY
TIME...

BUT YOU, TWITCH...YOU
WERE LIKE *KIN*...WE HAD
SOME *WILD* TIMES
TOGETHER...AND EVEN
WHEN I HAD TO *ARREST*
YOU, YOU NEVER LOST
YOUR SENSE OF
HUMOR...

SIGH...
THEY WERE
GOOD TIMES,
TWITCH...

...AND NOW
I'VE GOT TO
TELL THE OTHERS
THOSE TIMES
ARE GONE
FOR GOOD...

MAVIS--
BRACE
YOURSELF.
I'VE GOT
BAD NEWS...

OH
MY
GOD.

HOW?

I DON'T KNOW!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE
HE *SUFFERED* ANY--
SEEMS AS PEACEFUL
AS A *BABE*...MATTER
OF FACT, HE LOOKS
BETTER THAN I'VE
EVER SEEN HIM.

SMALL CONSOLATION. GET THE
AUTOPSY REPORT. THAT WILL GIVE
US A PLACE TO START--

RIGHT, MASTER.
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO DO--
CARDONA'S UPSTAIRS
ARRANGING FOR--

HARDUMPHH...

UHH...
SORRY TO
INTERRUPT YOU,
SON, BUT
WE'RE READY
TO GET
UNDER WAY.

RIGHT.
GOTTA GO, MAS--
UHH--MAV. CALL YOU
AS SOON AS WE
FIND OUT ANYTHING--

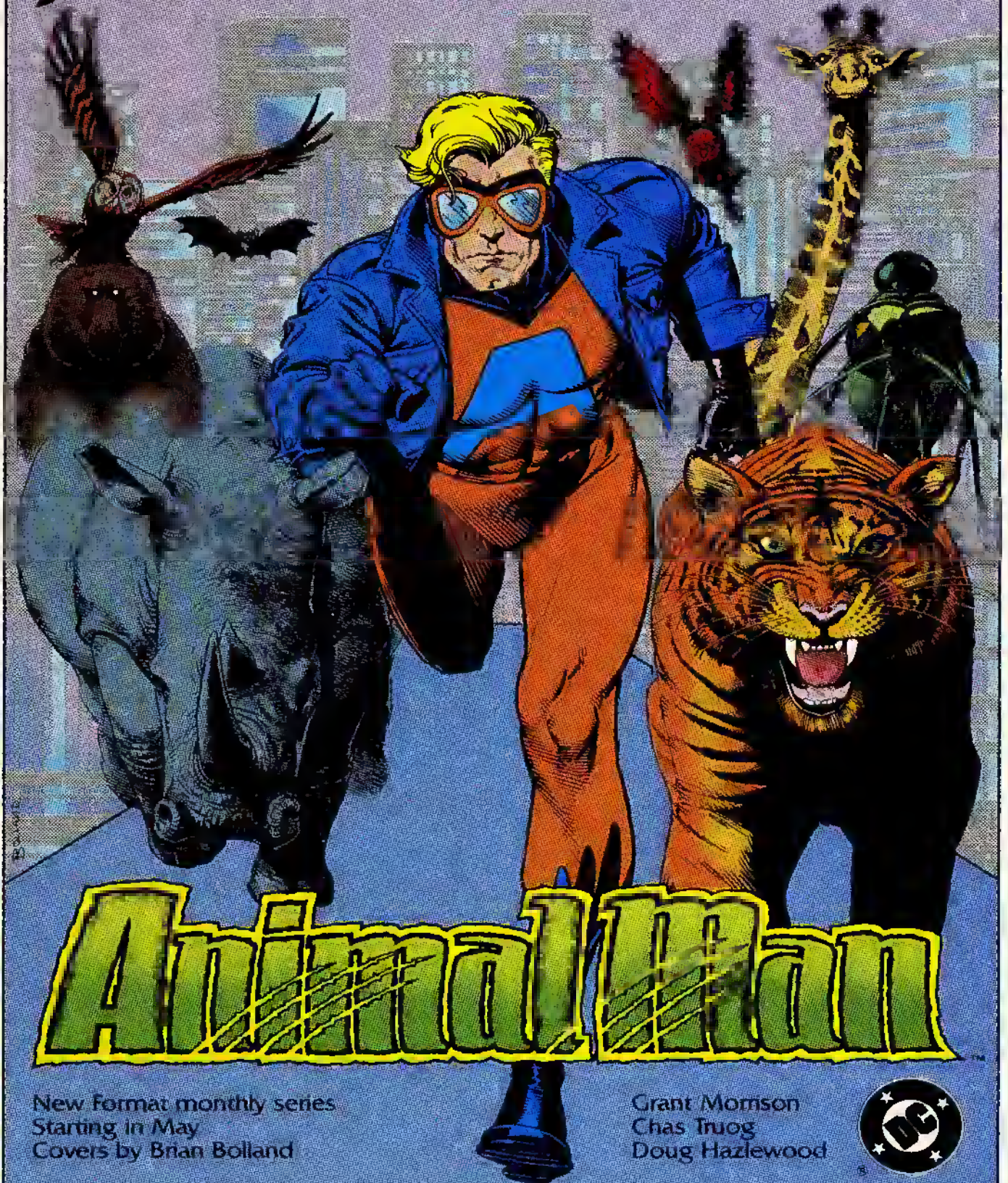
WHERE'S GWEN--
SOMEBODY'S
GOT TO TELL
HER--

SHE'S GOT
AN EXHIBITION
MATCH AT THE
GARDEN TONIGHT--
A 4-H
FUNDRAISER.

WE'LL HANDLE HER
WHEN SHE RETURNS.
UNTIL THEN, WE MUST
REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS
TO RID THIS CITY OF
THE *PLAGUE* OF THE
FINN FAMILY.

WE ARE
TOO CLOSE
TO STOP
NOW.

IT'S A
JUNGLE OUT THERE!



New Format monthly series
Starting in May
Covers by Brian Bolland

Grant Morrison
Chas Truog
Doug Hazlewood

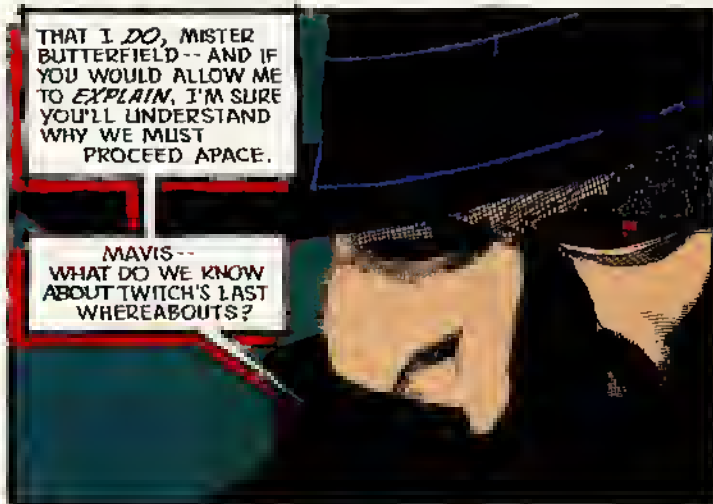




SO
THAT'S
IT?

WE JUST
FORGET ABOUT
POOR TWITCH?
DISCARD HIM
LIKE A USED
TISSUE?

HEY,
MASTER--
DON'T YOU HAVE
A HUMAN BONE
IN YOUR
ENTIRE
BODY?

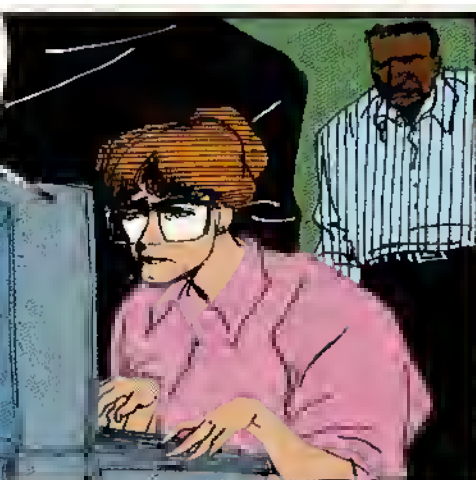


THAT I *DO*, MISTER
BUTTERFIELD-- AND IF
YOU WOULD ALLOW ME
TO *EXPLAIN*, I'M SURE
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
WHY WE MUST
PROCEED APACE.

MAVIS--
WHAT DO WE KNOW
ABOUT TWITCH'S LAST
WHEREABOUTS?

LET'S SEE... LAST TIME
HE CALLED IN, HE'D
MANAGED TO INFILTRATE
SHAWN FINN'S DRUG
OPERATION, WHERE
HE'D BEEN ASSIGNED TO
ASSIST A SCIENTIST
NAMED *FLAX*...

I CROSS-
REFERENCED THE NAME
ON THE MEDICAL
DATABASE--TURNS OUT
FLAX IS SOME *NUT*
MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST--
GENE SPLICING,
STUFF LIKE
THAT.



GUY GOT A KICK OUT OF
WHIPPING UP KILLER
MICROBES-- FIRST FOR
THE *GOVERNMENT*,
THEN FOR PLAIN,
GOOD OLD
RECREATIONAL
USE--

GET ON
WITH IT,
MAVIS...

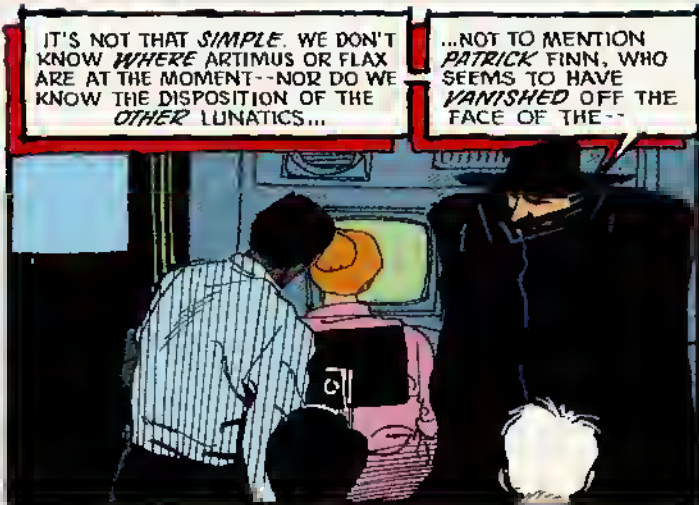
RIGHT. WELL, THEY
PUT HIM AWAY
FOR THAT STUFF--
AND HE'D BEEN IN
THE PSYCHO WING
AT DOWNSTATE--
UNTIL HE GOT
BROKEN OUT
OF THE PLACE
BY--



ARTIMUS
FINN.

DO YOU SEE
THE
CONNECTION,
ELTON?

WELL, WHAT ARE WE
WAITING FOR--?
LET'S GET THAT
S.O.B. BEFORE
HE--



IT'S NOT THAT *SIMPLE*. WE DON'T
KNOW *WHERE* ARTIMUS OR FLAX
ARE AT THE MOMENT--NOR DO WE
KNOW THE DISPOSITION OF THE
OTHER LUNATICS...

...NOT TO MENTION
PATRICK FINN, WHO
SEEMS TO HAVE
VANISHED OFF THE
FACE OF THE--



MAGNET--!

GOT
HERE...
FAST AS
I COULD...

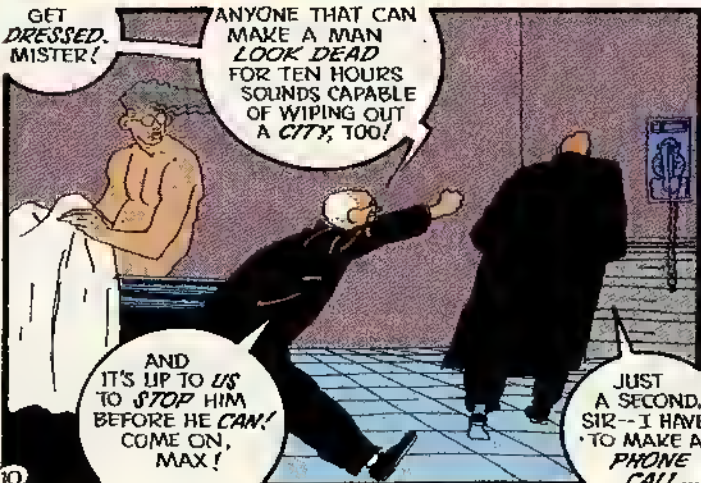
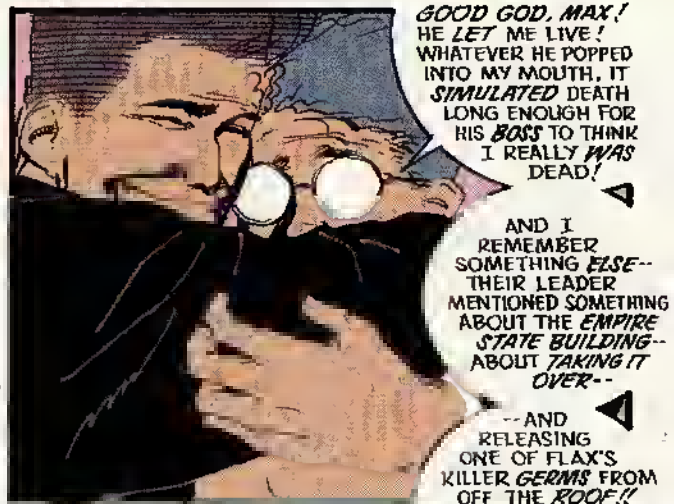
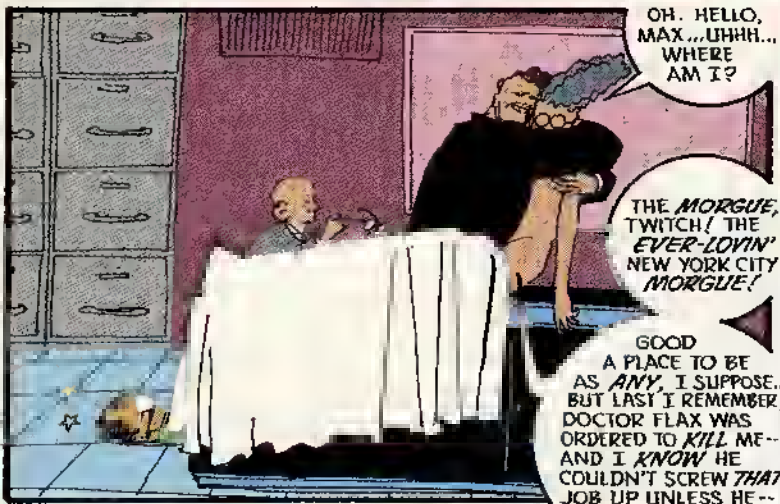
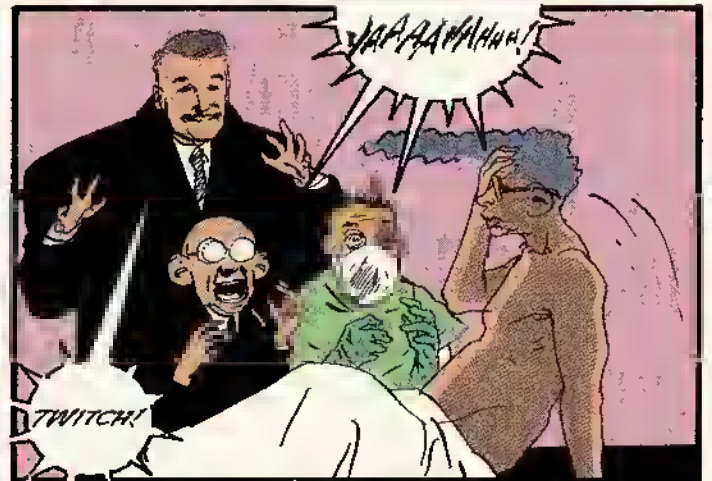
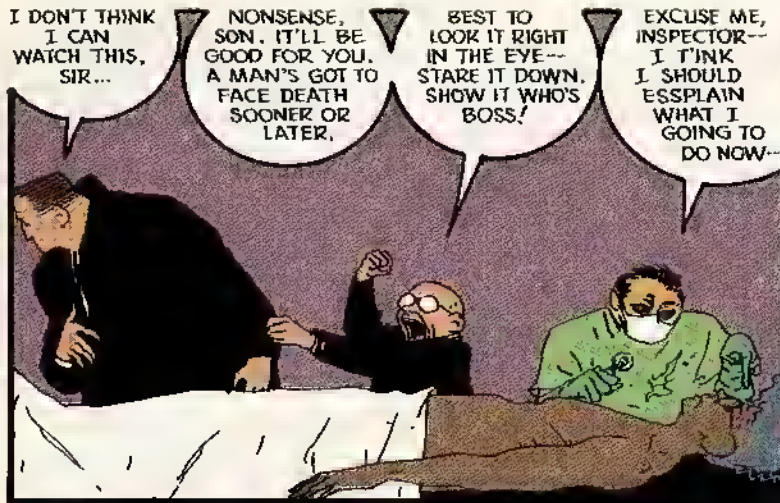


FOUND PAT FINN...
HOLED UP
AT HIS...
MOTHER'S
HOUSE...

KILLED LEN...
ALMOST
ME, TOO...

GOT THE
ADDRESS...
RIGHT HERE.
WISH I COULD
JOIN YOU...
FOR THE
CLEAN-UP.

...BUT I'M
A LITTLE...
BEAT
MYSELF...



THIS IS
HOPELESS!

SURE,
HE CAN BURY
THE EVIDENCE--
BUT HE'S
BURYING IT
IN THE
BASEMENT!

THAT'S THE
FIRST PLACE
THEY'LL LOOK!!

NO...ONCE THE
DETECTIVE ARRIVES
WITH THE POLICE, IT'S
ALL OVER FOR ME...
NOT TO MENTION
MA AND BEPPO...

...UNLESS
I GO NOW...
GET TO THE
AIRPORT...
CATCH THE
FIRST PLANE
TO EUROPE...

...BUT I CAN'T
JUST LEAVE MA
TO FACE THE
POLICE
ALO--

PAT!
YA BUM!
GET IN
HERE--
RIGHT
NOW!!

WELL,
WHAT IF
I DO?

SHE'S
OBVIOUSLY
INSANE! SHE
CAN'T BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THOSE
MURDERS!

THEY'LL BLAME
THE MONKEY
AND KILL IT.
THEY'LL PUT
MA IN A NICE
REST
HOME...

...ONE WITH A
HUMAN STAFF...
PROBABLY
DO HER SOME
GOOD...

AND I'LL BE LONG GONE
BY THEN...THERE'S
ENOUGH JEWELS HERE
TO KEEP ME SOLVENT
FOR A FEW YEARS
AT LEAST...

THAT'S IT. THEN.
A GOOD-BYE KISS
FOR DEAR OLD MA
AND I'M OFF
TO BEGIN
A NEW--

PAT!
WHY'RE YA
WEARIN' A COAT
INNA HOUSE?
WHERE YA THINK
YER GOIN'?

WHY...
OUT TO GET
SOME...MILK
FOR BEPPO,
MA--

YER LYIN', YA BUM!
YER GAN LEAVE
YER PUOR OLD MA!
LEAVE 'ER
SICK AN' DYIN'!

MA--
PLEASE--
I GOTTA
GO...

Y'AIN'T NO SON
O' MINE, PAT FINN!
GAN OUT THAT DOOR
AN' YER NEVER
COMIN' BACK!

OH...
NOW WOULD
YOU LOOK AT
THIS!

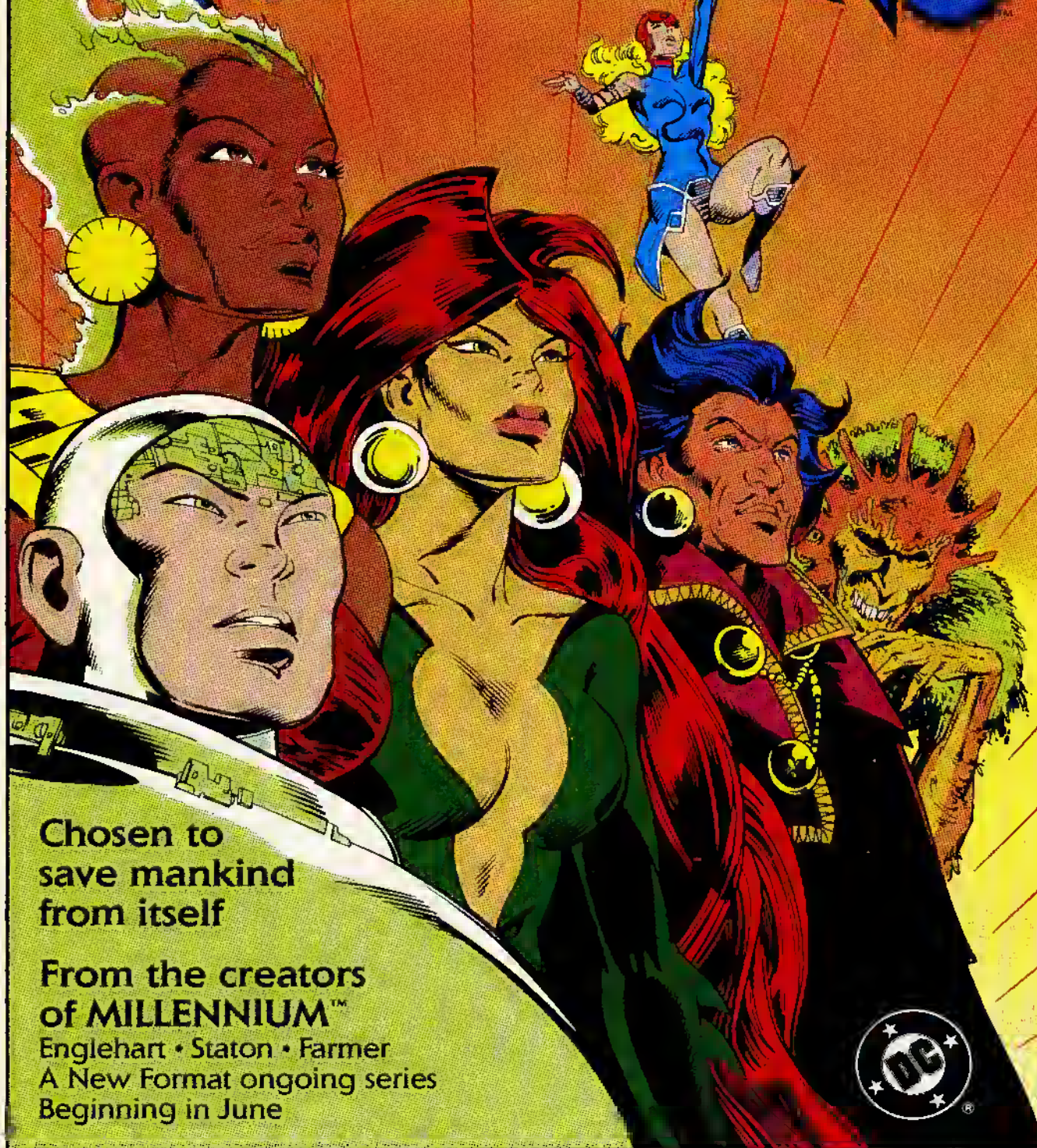
HONESTLY!
HOW IS ONE
SUPPOSED TO
BEGIN A
NEW LIFE
WITH
TORN OLD
CLOTHES...!

AH DIN'T NEED YA
ANYWAY, PAT! I GOT
BEPPO-- 'E'S MORE'F
A SON THAN YE'LL
EVER BE! Y'HEAR
ME, PAT? YA
BUM!!!

I WONDER...
PERHAPS
THERE'S TIME
TO STOP AT
MY TAILOR'S
BEFORE--

MORE THAN MEN...LESS THAN GODS

THE NEW GUARDIANS



**Chosen to
save mankind
from itself**

**From the creators
of MILLENNIUM™**

Englehart • Staton • Farmer
A New Format ongoing series
Beginning in June





OH DEAR.

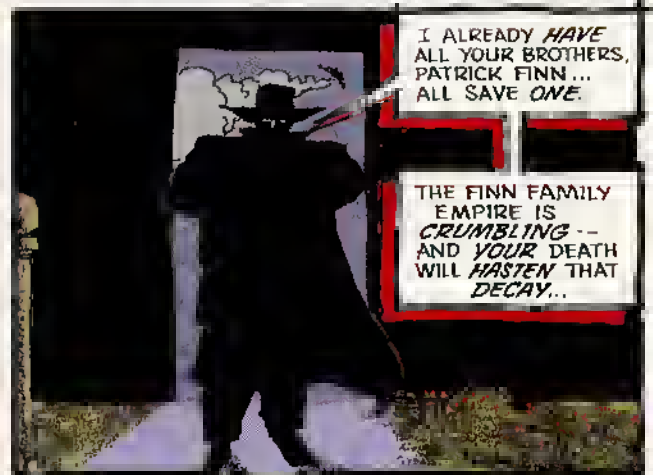


NICE COAT



PLEASE--
GET AWAY!
I-I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING!
I--

—IT'S MY
BROTHERS
YOU WANT!
I'LL TELL YOU
WHERE THEY
ARE! ALL
OF THEM!



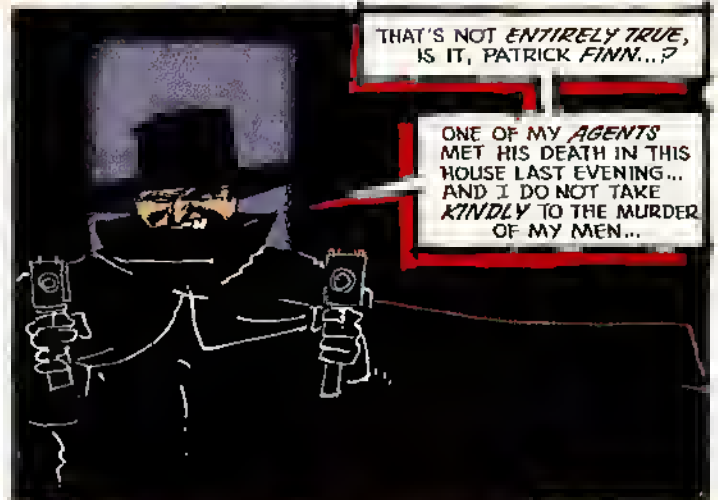
I ALREADY *HAVE*
ALL YOUR BROTHERS,
PATRICK FINN...
ALL SAVE ONE.

THE FINN FAMILY
EMPIRE IS
CRUMBLING--
AND *YOUR* DEATH
WILL *HASTEN* THAT
DECAY...



THIS IS ALL
ARTIE'S FAULT! HE
WANTED YOU DEAD!
HE EVEN ENLISTED
A GROUP OF
HORRID KILLERS
TO DO IT!

BUT ME--
I ABHOR
VIOLENCE!
I NEVER
KILLED
ANYONE!



THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE,
IS IT, PATRICK FINN...?

ONE OF MY AGENTS
MET HIS DEATH IN THIS
HOUSE LAST EVENING...
AND I DO NOT TAKE
KINDLY TO THE MURDER
OF MY MEN...



PLEASE!
HAVE
MERCY
ON ME!

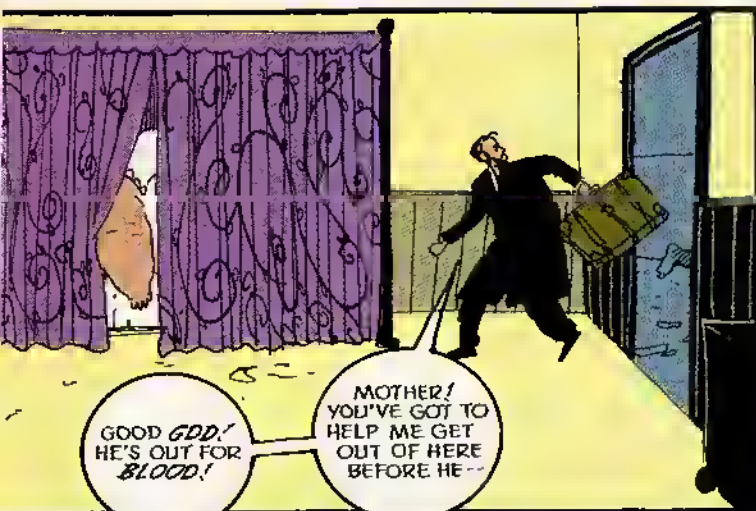
I DIDN'T
DO IT! I SWEAR
IT! I-- I WAS
DOING THE DISHES
WHEN IT
HAPPENED!!

WHO WAS IT,
THEN, PATRICK--
WHO KILLED
LEONARD GOGGIN?



SWASHYK

--HIM!?



GOOD GDD!
HE'S OUT FOR
BLOOD!

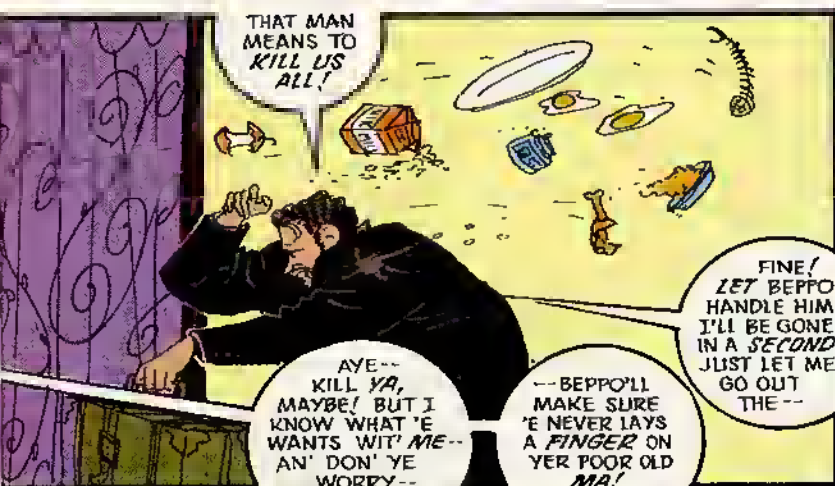
MOTHER!
YOU'VE GOT TO
HELP ME GET
OUT OF HERE
BEFORE HE--



YA BLIM!
Y'SEE
WHAT KINNA
TROUBLE
Y'BRING ME?!

YE'LL BE
GETTIN' OUT
THE WAY
YE CAME IN--
AN' THE DEVIL
TAKE YA,
FER ALL I
CARE!

MA, PLEASE!
THIS IS
NO TIME
FOR PETTY
ARGUMENTS!



THAT MAN
MEANS TO
KILL US
ALL!

FINE!
LET BEPPO
HANDLE HIM!
I'LL BE GONE
IN A SECOND--
JUST LET ME
GO OUT
THE--

AYE--
KILL YA,
MAYBE! BUT I
KNOW WHAT 'E
WANTS WIT' ME--
AN' DON' YE
WORRY--

--BEPPO'LL
MAKE SURE
'E NEVER LAYS
A FINGER ON
YER POOR OLD
MA!



-- WINDOW...



HEY!
WHAT'RE
YE DOIN'?

PLEASE,
MA-- IT'S THE
ONLY PLACE
LEFT TO
HIDE!

HIDE!?
YA BLIM!
GET
OUT THERE
AN' FIGHT
WIT' YER
BROTHER!!

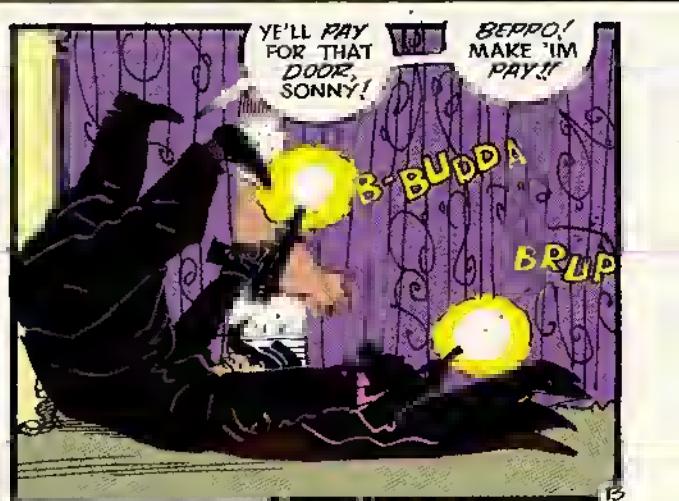


MA...
HE'S NOT MY
BROTHER--
HE'S A
GORILLA...

BUT
BELIEVE ME--
I WISH HIM
THE BEST--
I REALLY
DO.



HEY!!

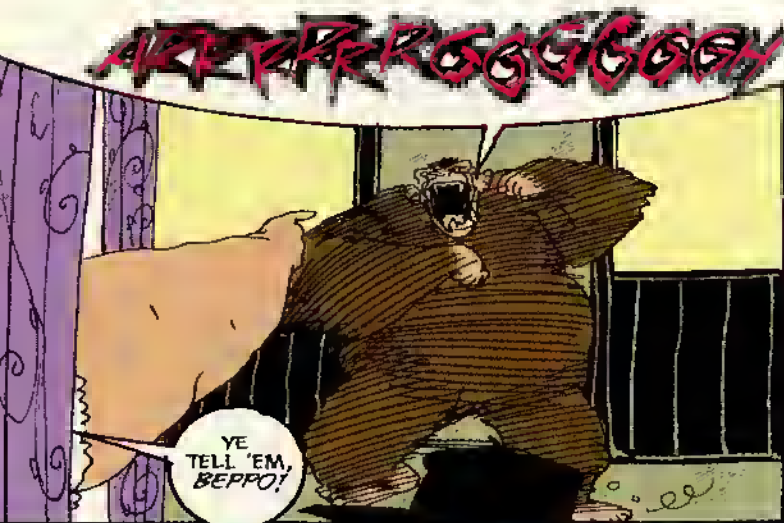


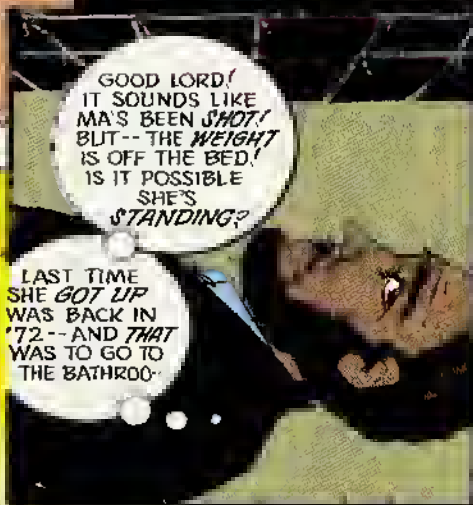
YE'LL PAY
FOR THAT
DOOR,
SONNY!

BEPPO!
MAKE 'IM
PAY!!

B-BUDDA

BRUP





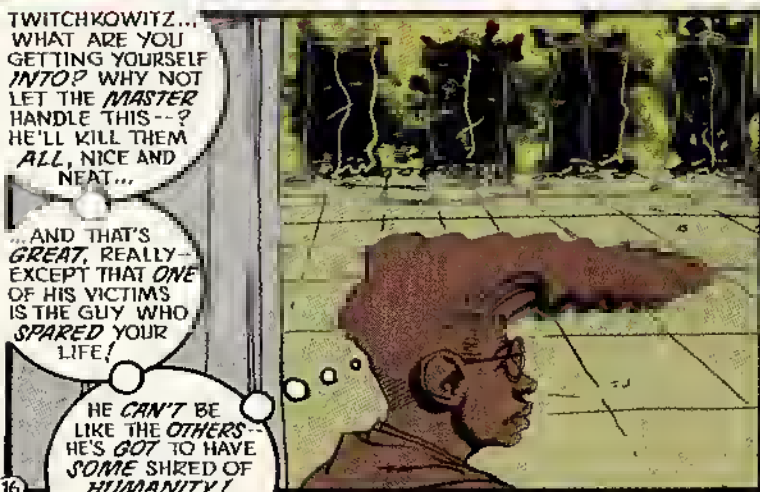
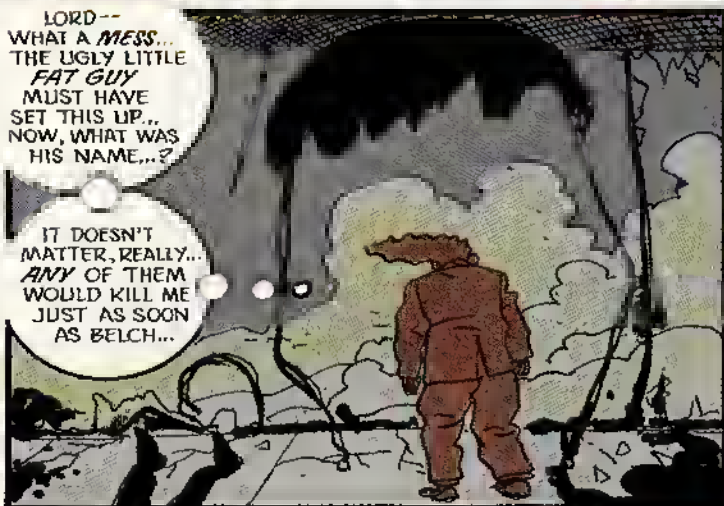
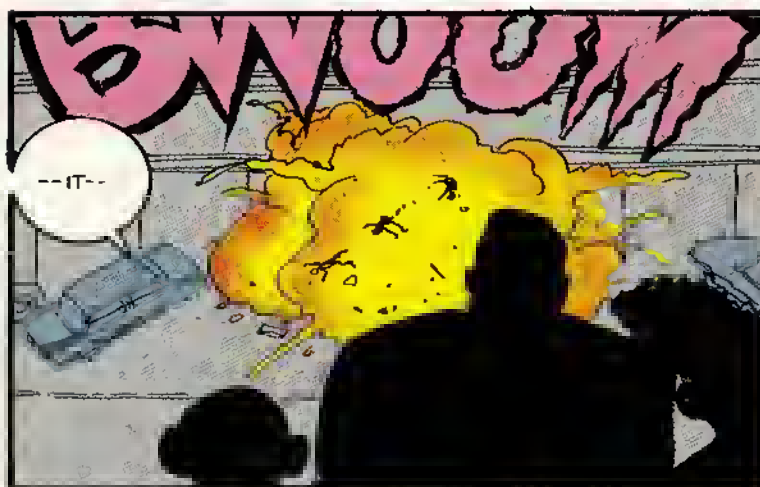
THEY'RE
IN THERE,
BOYS--
NO DOUBT
ABOUT
THAT!

GOD KNOWS
WHAT *GOODIES*
THEY'VE PLANNED
FOR YOU--
THEY'RE
LUNATICS,
AFTER ALL--

--BUT YOU'RE
THE *CREAM* OF
THE DIVISION--SO
GET OUT THERE
AND GIVE 'EM
ONE FOR
UNCLE JOE!

THEY'RE GOOD BOYS--
EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM!
HAND-PICKED 'EM
MYSELF--RIGHT OUT
OF THE ACADEMY,
I--

--AHH, COME
ON, YOU TWO!
WHAT'S ALL THIS
FRETTING?
EVERYTHING'S
UNDER CONTROL!
I PERSONALLY
GUARANTEE--





...AND WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE VIEW FROM UP HERE, MY AGENTS OF DESTRUCTION--

-- BEYOND THE FACT THAT IT IS THE VERY PERSONIFICATION OF THIS DECADENT CULTURE, IT IS SIMPLY-- YOU WILL PARDON THE EXPRESSION, DOCTOR--

--BREATHTAKING!

AND SPEAKING OF BREATHTAKING-- WHAT HAVE WE HERE, LEYLAND?

FOUND HIM WASHING FLOORS IN BACK-- HE'S STILL ALIVE, I THINK-- STILL WARM.

GOOD, LEYLAND... DOCTOR-- WOULD YOU CARE TO--?

IT IS AN--

--HONOR, MEIN HERR...



NOW, THEN... WHAT WAS I SAYING...?

SOMETHING ABOUT THE VIEW, I THINK...

AH, YES... THANK YOU, LARRY...

... HARDLY SEE A THING! IT'S LIKE BEIN' IN SOLITARY-- BUT WITHOUT A ROOF!

FUNNY, THOUGH... SITTING HERE LIKE THIS, IT GETS ME THINKIN'... NONE OF IT REALLY MATTERS... NOT MUSTAFA, NOT THE CRAZIES... NOT EVEN THE SHADOW...

WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS IF YA GOT YER HEALTH... AND--



-- JESUS-- I DON'T WANNA DIE!!!! PLEASE, GOD-- HELP--

WHAT--? I-I SEE THE LIGHT-- AN' IT MUST BE COMIN' FROM THE LOBBY!

IF I COULD CLIMB OUT BEFORE THE BUILDING BLOWS, EVEN ODDS SAY I CAN OUTFRIN FLAX'S GERM, TOO!

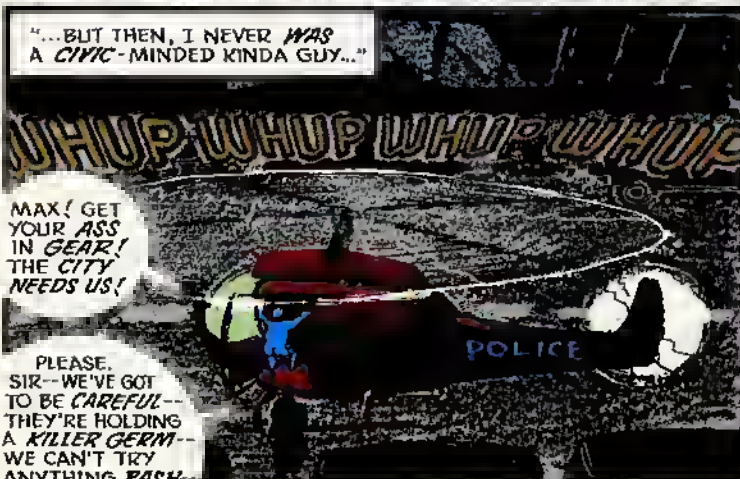
AIN'T A VERY CIVIC-MINDED SOLUTION...



"...BUT THEN, I NEVER WAS A CIVIC-MINDED KINDA GUY..."

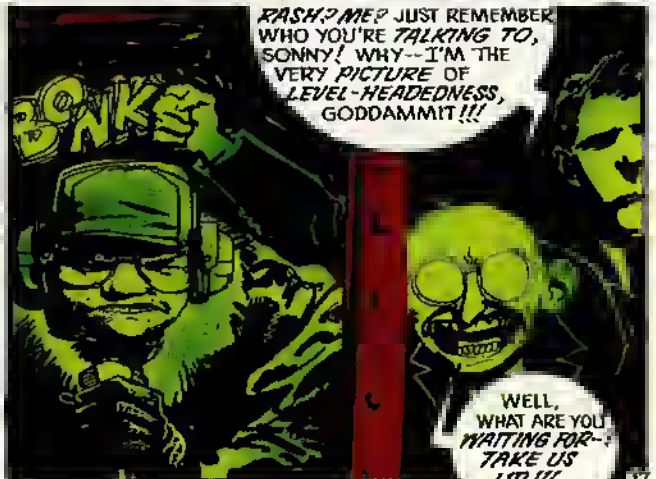
MAX! GET YOUR ASS IN GEAR! THE CITY NEEDS US!

PLEASE, SIR-- WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL-- THEY'RE HOLDING A KILLER GERM-- WE CAN'T TRY ANYTHING RASH--



RASH? ME? JUST REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO, SONNY! WHY-- I'M THE VERY PICTURE OF LEVEL-HEADEDNESS, GODDAMMIT!!!

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR-- TAKE US UP!!!



88

ANNUALS

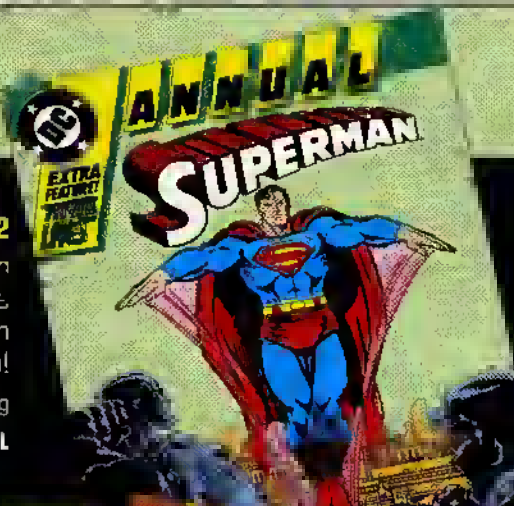


SUPERMAN ANNUAL #12

Superman and the Guardian must rescue the adults that once formed the Newsboy Legion from Sleez's malevolent grasp!

Stern Frenz Breeding

AVAILABLE IN APRIL

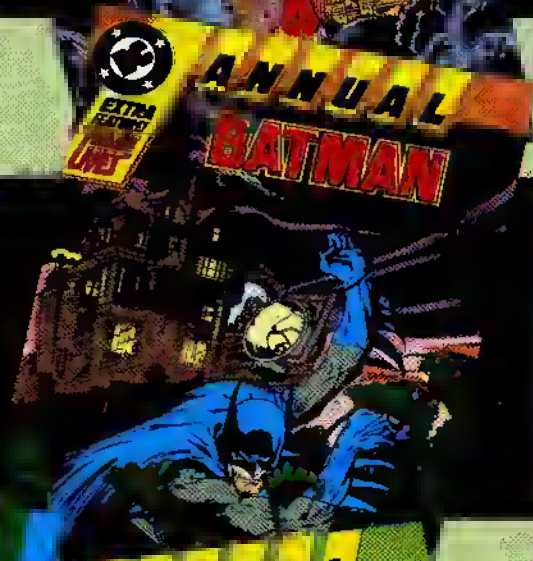


BATMAN ANNUAL #12

Batman hunts two foes—a ruthless killer and something that may not be human! Can he catch them in time to prevent tragic history from repeating itself?

Baron Andru Rodier

AVAILABLE IN APRIL



STAR TREK ANNUAL #3

A glimpse into Scotty's past, as writer Peter David reveals the facts behind the greatest love of Scotty's life!

David Swan/Villagran

AVAILABLE IN APRIL

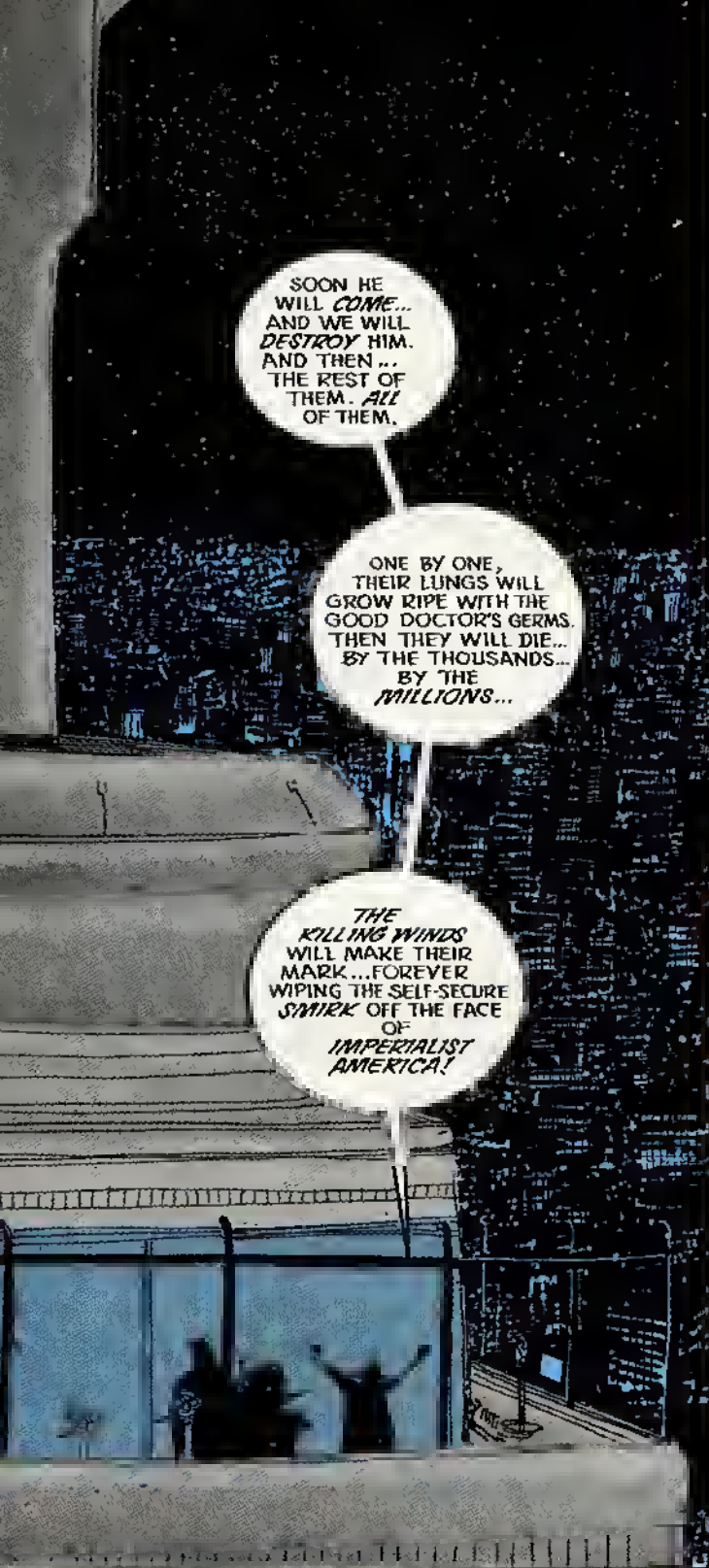


SECRET ORIGINS ANNUAL #2

"The Flash of Two Worlds" is the theme in this issue that explores the origins of the Scarlet Speedsters!

Loeb/Collins/Vey/Fleming/Infantino/Anderson

AVAILABLE IN MAY



SOON HE
WILL *COME*...
AND WE WILL
DESTROY HIM.
AND THEN...
THE REST OF
THEM. *ALL*
OF THEM.

ONE BY ONE,
THEIR LUNGS WILL
GROW RIPE WITH THE
GOOD DOCTOR'S GERMS.
THEN THEY WILL DIE...
BY THE THOUSANDS...
BY THE
MILLIONS...

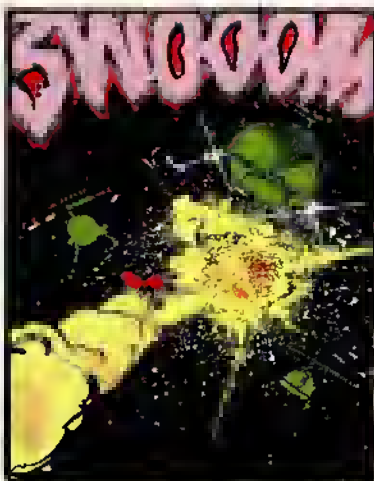
THE
KILLING WINDS
WILL MAKE THEIR
MARK...FOREVER
WIPING THE SELF-SECURE
SMIRK OFF THE FACE
OF
IMPERIALIST
AMERICA!



THEN--
VE RELEASE
MY PRECIOUS
GERMZ
NOW--?

NO, DOCTOR--I STILL HAVE A
DEBT OF HONOR TO PAY!
I PROMISED AKTILUS FINN
THE SHADOW WOULD DIE
BY OUR HAND-- THE
WORLD MUST WAIT
FOR ITS REWARD
UNTIL THEN!

LEYLAND--
HANDLE
THIS.



NOW,
TO *BAIT*
THE
TRAP...

IT IS READY,
MASTER.
THE ANTENNA
IS LINKED
TO THE
TRANSMITTER.

GOOD,
PREPARE
YOURSELVES...
DESTINY
KNOCKS.

GREETINGS, AMERICA. THIS
IS THE VOICE OF *TERROR*--
A TERROR POISED
TO DESTROY YOU ALL.
AND WE SHALL--

--UNLESS
THE SHADOW
HIMSELF
COMES TO US--
TO FACE HIS
DEATH.

A FAIR
WARNING TO OTHERS:
ANY INTERVENTION BY
POLICE WILL CAUSE THE
IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF A
DEADLY TOXIN INTO THE
AIR OVER NEW--

--WHA--??
POLICE??
HERE--
ALREADY??

BUT--
HOW COULD THEY
KNOW
WE WERE HERE
BEFORE
OUR BROADCAST
EVEN BEGAN??



AHH...
THE OTHERS
FLEE.
COWARDS.

BUT STILL...
I WONDER HOW
THEY KNEW--

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

YOUR PLAN WAS NOT AS *FLAWLESS* AS YOU *PRESUMED*, SCUM... ONE OF YOUR VICTIMS SURVIVED TO TELL OF IT...

AND NOW YOU WILL PAY THE *ULTIMATE PRICE* FOR YOUR *CARELESSNESS*...

NO, SHADOW--IT WILL BE *YOU* WHO WILL PAY! ONE *SHOT*--AND THE GOOD DOCTOR WILL SMASH HIS VIAL, RELEASING HIS DEADLY GERM INTO THE AIR--

NOT YET.

NOW, HERE MASTER?

YOU SEE? HE IS *VERY* ANXIOUS. PERHAPS IN A FEW MOMENTS I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO *CONTAIN* HIS ENTHUSIASM.

SURRENDER. WHEN YOU ARE DEAD, OUR MISSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED AND WE CAN ALL GO HOME. BUT IF YOU RESIST, THE CITY DIES.

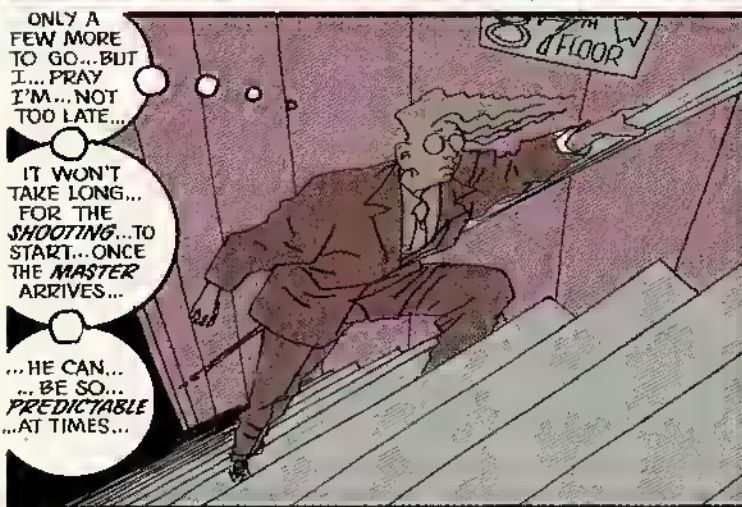
YOUR CHOICE, PLEASE?



ONLY A FEW MORE TO GO... BUT I... PRAY I'M... NOT TOO LATE...

IT WON'T TAKE LONG... FOR THE *SHOOTING*... TO START... ONCE THE *MASTER* ARRIVES...

...HE CAN... BE SO... *PREDICTABLE*... AT TIMES...



I'VE GOT TO... GET THE DOC... AWAY FROM THE OTHERS... I CAN TALK TO... HIM... *REASON*... WITH HIM...

...I ONLY... HOPE I CAN... DO THE *SAME*... WITH... THE *MASTER*...



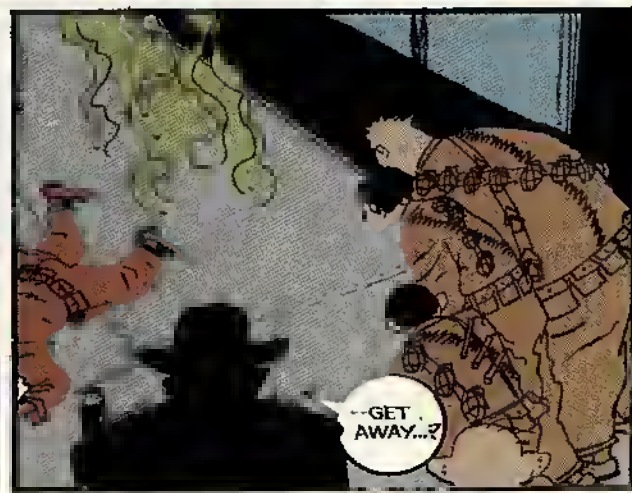
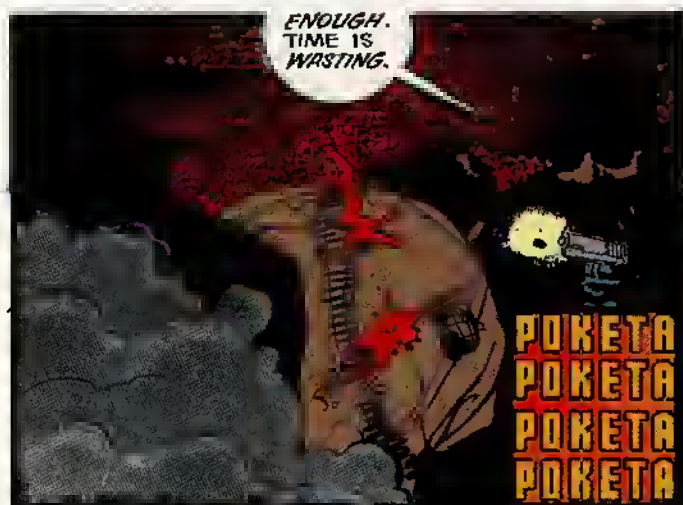
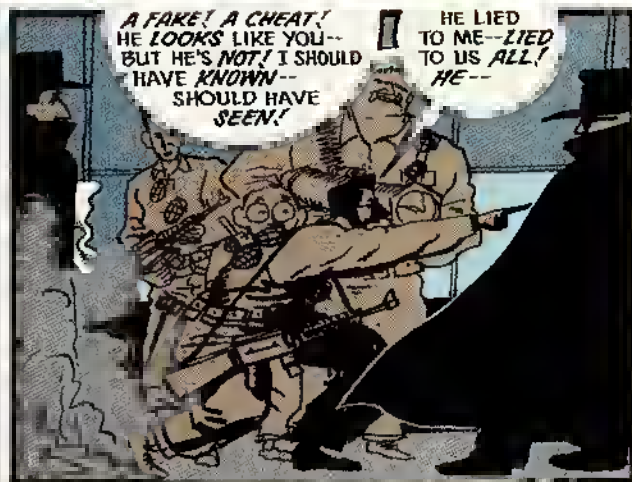
HURTS LIKE *HELL*, BUT IT BEATS HAVIN' A MILLION TONS' A CONCRETE FALLIN' ON MY HEAD... ONCE I'M OUTTA THIS HELL-HOLE, I'LL HAVE *LOTS* 'A TIME TO NURSE MY WOUNDS...

ANY LUCK, I FIND PAT, WE TAKE IT ON THE LAM TO EUROPE AND *START OVER*... I *KNOW* HE'S GOT ENOUGH *STASHED* AWAY T' TAKE CARE 'A THE *BOTH* OF US...



YEAH... IT'LL BE *GREAT*... JUST HIM AND ME... CRUISING THE RIVIERA... PICKIN' UP BABES... LIKE WE BOTH DIED AN' WENT TO *HEAVEN*...

SO SAVE A SEAT FOR *ME*, SAINT *PETE*-- IT WON'T BE LONG NOW...



TWO NEW TITLES... TWO GREAT DEALS!

The DC Subscription Department does it again!

FREE POSTER AND SIGNED FIRST ISSUE!

Send only \$15.00 and receive 12 Issues of THE NEW GUARDIANS, a FREE full color poster, and Issue #1 SIGNED by Steve Englehart and Joe Staton. Poster and Issues #1, #2 and #3 will be mailed together in one package in August 1988.

SAVE THE BIG BUCKS!

Subscribe to the new ANIMAL MAN now and take $\frac{1}{3}$ off the cover price! Regular price is \$15.00, but you pay only \$10.00 for 12 Issues! And you won't miss a single issue because #1, #2 and #3 will ship together in one package in July 1988.



YES! Include me in the offers that I have checked below.

- ☐ **THE NEW GUARDIANS** (Dept. L-21) \$15.00 for 12 issues, free poster and signed #1.
☐ **ANIMAL MAN** (Dept. L-19) \$10.00 for 12 issues — save \$5.

My \$_____ check or money order (In U.S. Funds) is enclosed.
 Please add \$2.00 additional per Canadian order and \$10.00 for all other foreign orders.

Please make check payable to DC Comics Inc. and mail this coupon (or copy) to DC Comics Subscriptions, Dept. "Great Deal 2," Box 1985, New York, NY 10185. Offer expires May 31, 1988

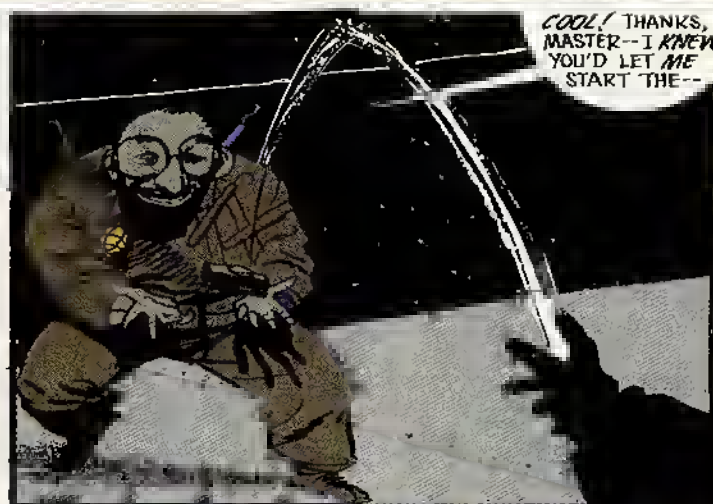
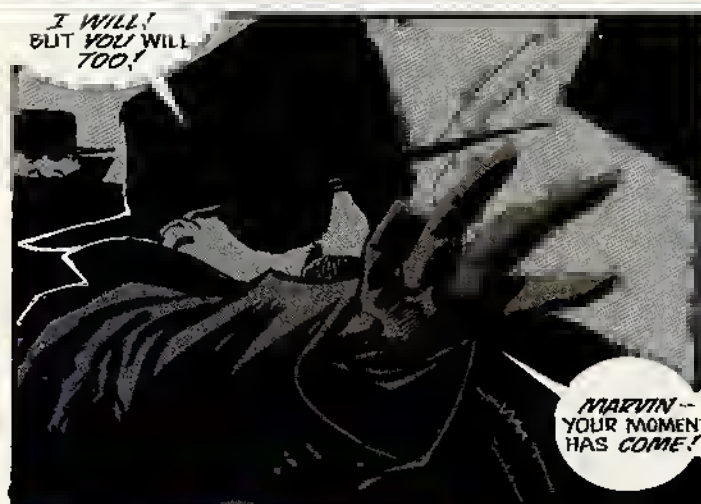
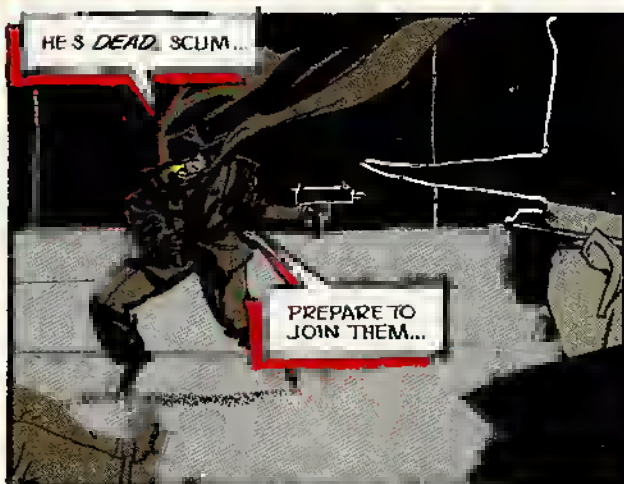
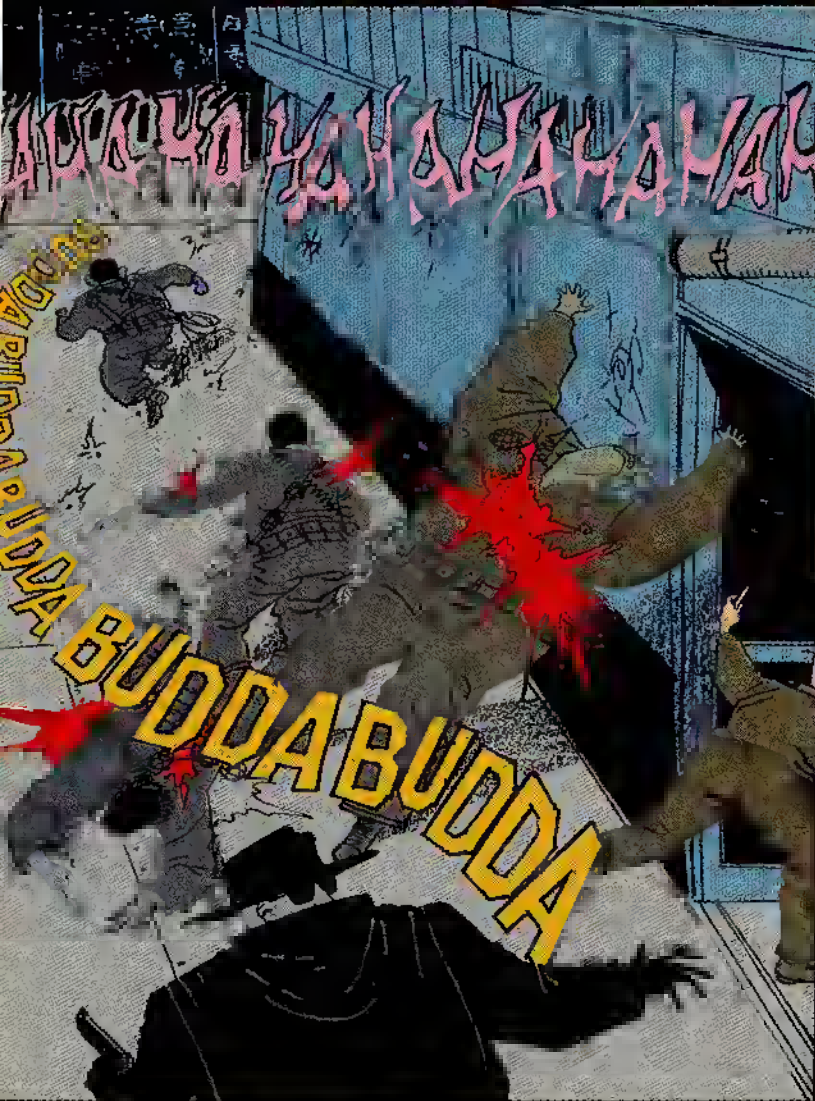
® TM DC Comics Inc © 1988.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



IT FIGURES...RUN
UP A HUNDRED
FLIGHTS OF STAIRS...
AND GET HERE
JUST IN TIME...
TO MISS THE...
BIG BANG...

POOR
DOC FLAX...
HIM AND THE
OTHER LOONIES...
MUST BE
MULCH
BY--

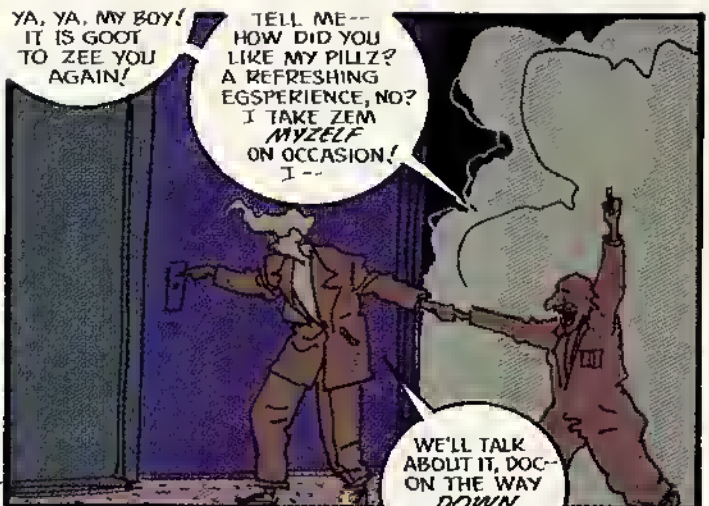
DOC--?
IS THAT
YOU--?



YA, YA, MY BOY!
IT IS GOOT
TO ZEE YOU
AGAIN!

TELL ME--
HOW DID YOU
LIKE MY PILZ?
A REFRESHING
EGSPERIENCE, NO?
I TAKE ZEM
MYSELF
ON OCCASION!
I--

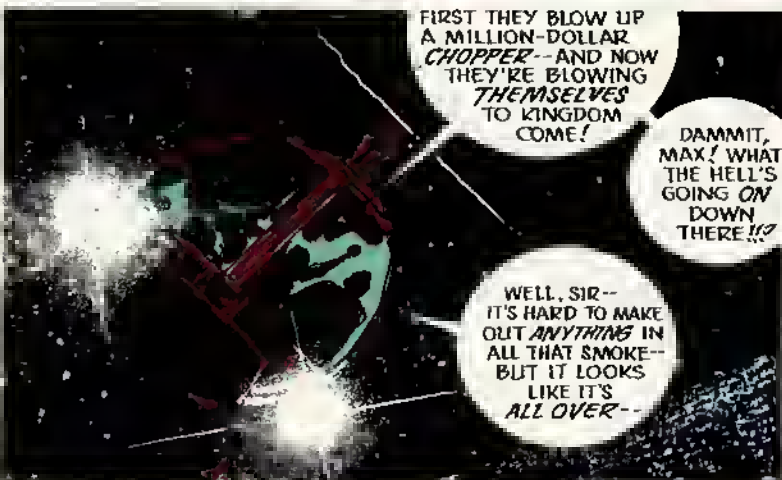
WE'LL TALK
ABOUT IT, DOC--
ON THE WAY
DOWN.



FIRST THEY BLOW UP
A MILLION-DOLLAR
CHOPPER--AND NOW
THEY'RE BLOWING
THEMSELVES
TO KINGDOM
COME!

DAMMIT,
MAX! WHAT
THE HELL'S
GOING ON
DOWN
THERE!!?

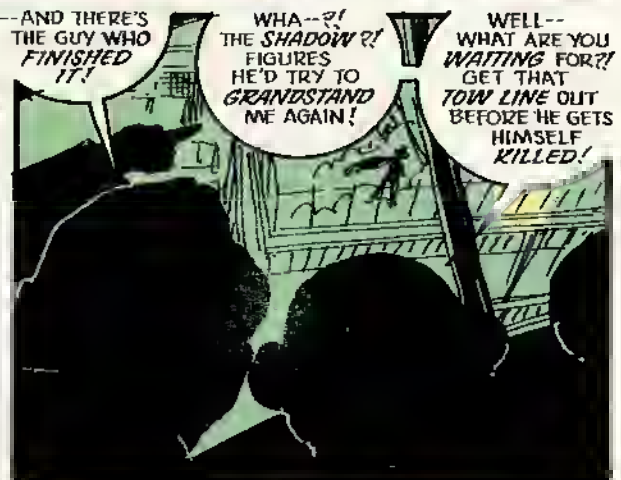
WELL, SIR--
IT'S HARD TO MAKE
OUT ANYTHINS IN
ALL THAT SMOKE--
BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
ALL OVER--



--AND THERE'S
THE GUY WHO
FINISHED
IT!

WHA--?!
THE SHADOW?!
FIGURES
HE'D TRY TO
GRANDSTAND
ME AGAIN!

WELL--
WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?!
GET THAT
TOW LINE OUT
BEFORE HE GETS
HIMSELF
KILLED!



YEP...HE MAY HAVE
A FLAIR FOR BULLETS
AND BAD MEN-- BUT
WHEN IT COMES TO
PULLING HIS OWN
HIDE OUT OF THE
FIRE--



--THAT'S
WHEN
THE SHADOW
TURNS TO
JOE CAR--

--DON--

UHM...?

YES,
SIR...?



THAT'S
NOT
THE
SHADOW...



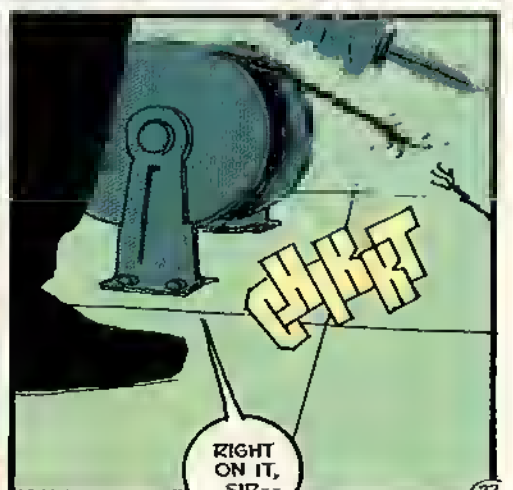
CUT
THE CORD!
CUT IT,
MAX--

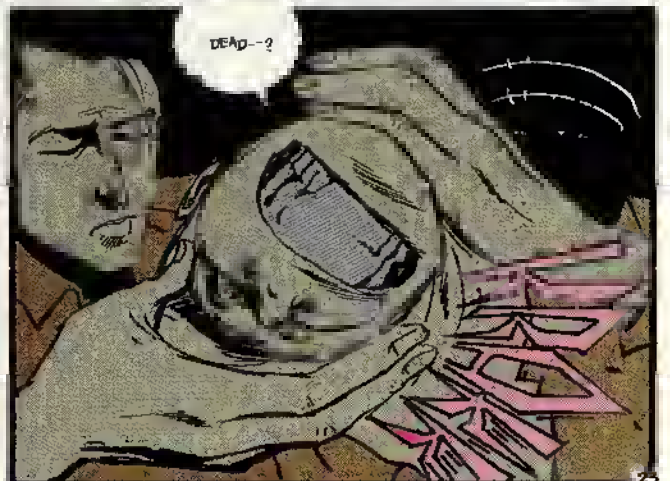
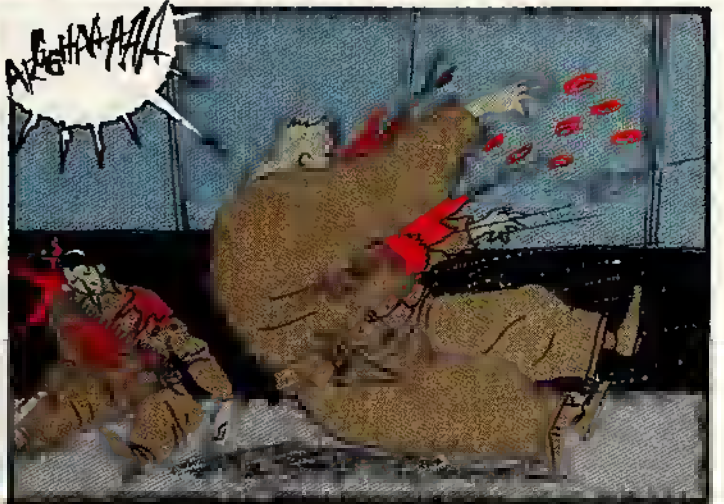
--BEFORE HE
TAKES US ALL
DOWN!!!

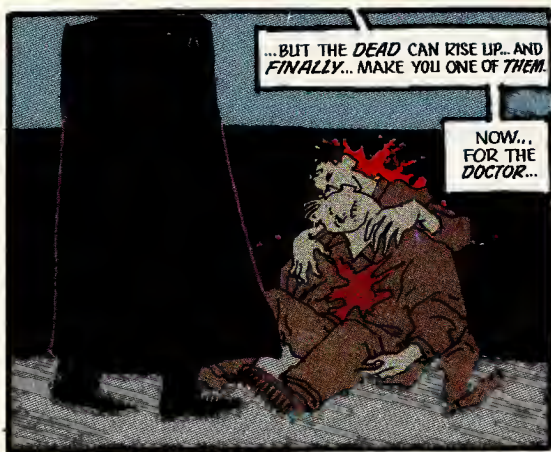


CHIRP

RIGHT
ON IT,
SIR--



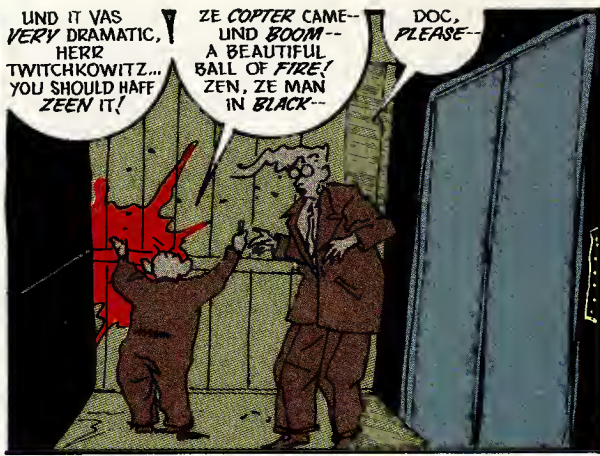




UND IT VAS
VERY DRAMATIC,
HERZ
TWITCHKOWITZ...
YOU SHOULD HAF
ZEEN IT!

ZE COPTER CAME--
UND BOOM--
A BEAUTIFUL
BALL OF FIRE!
ZEN, ZE MAN
IN BLACK--

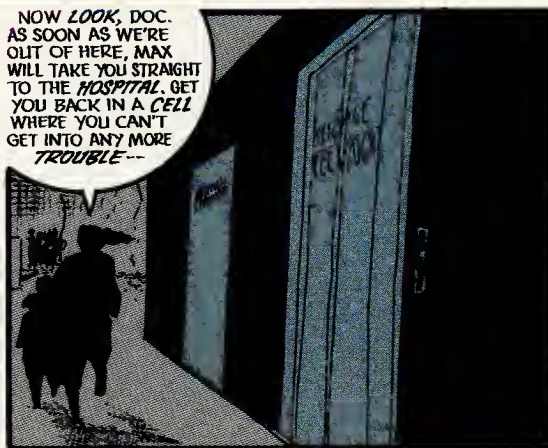
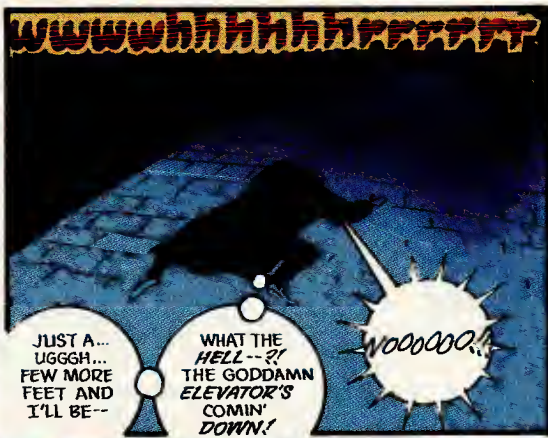
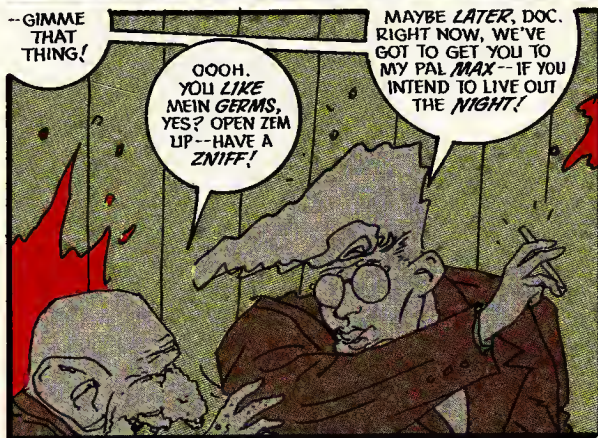
DOC,
PLEASE--

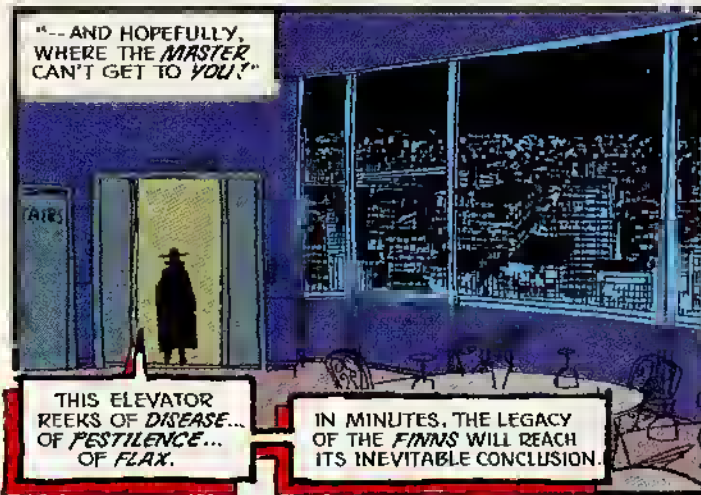


--GIMME
THAT
THING!

OOOH,
YOU LIKE
MEIN GERMS,
YES? OPEN ZEM
UP-- HAVE A
ZNIFF!

MAYBE LATER, DOC.
RIGHT NOW, WE'VE
GOT TO GET YOU TO
MY PAL MAX-- IF YOU
INTEND TO LIVE OUT
THE NIGHT!





"--AND HOPEFULLY,
WHERE THE *MASTER*
CAN'T GET TO *YOU*!"

THIS ELEVATOR
REEKS OF *DISEASE*...
OF *PESTILENCE*...
OF *FLAX*.

IN MINUTES, THE LEGACY
OF THE *FINNS* WILL REACH
ITS INEVITABLE CONCLUSION.

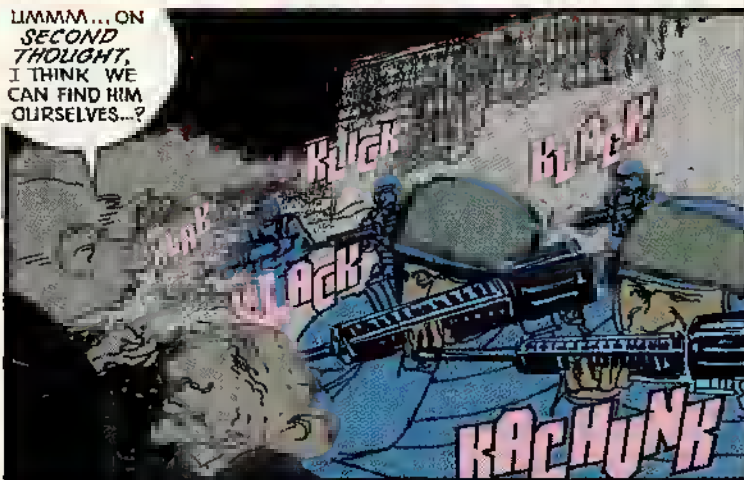
EXCUSE ME,
GENTLEMEN--
WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
JOE CARDONA'S
ASSISTANT--?

SORRY,
HE'S UP
IN THE--
HOLEEE
SHIT!

IT'S
THE *KRAUT*
DOCTOR--
THE ONE WIT'
THE *KILLER*
GERMS!!



LIMMM... ON
SECOND
THOUGHT,
I THINK WE
CAN FIND HIM
OURSELVES...?



HANDS'RE
KILLIN' ME...
FEELS LIKE
I'VE RIPPED 'EM
TO THE *BONE*...
BUT I CAN'T
STOP NOW...NOT
WHEN I'M AT
HEAVEN'S
DOOR...

JUST A
LITTLE MORE
OOMPH
AND--



SHOOO

--GOT IT!

ATTA
BOY, ARTIE...
NOW JUST
HAUL YER BUTT
UP AND
YER--



WHHRR

...HOME
FREE--



HMMM...
ARTIMUS FINN.
I HAD ALMOST
FORGOTTEN
HIM.

NOW,
IT APPEARS
I *MAY*
BE AFFORDED
THAT *LUXURY*...

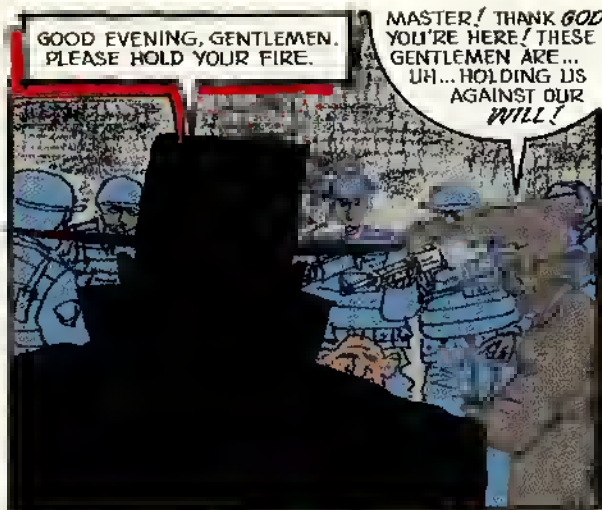
AGGGGGGGGG



THE WEED OF CRIME
BEARS *BITTER* FRUIT...

...BUT THERE ARE *LIMITS*--

NOW,
OFFICERS--
LET'S NOT
DO ANYTHING
CRAZY...



GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN.
PLEASE HOLD YOUR FIRE.

MASTER! THANK GOD
YOU'RE HERE! THESE
GENTLEMEN ARE...
UH... HOLDING US
AGAINST OUR
WILL!



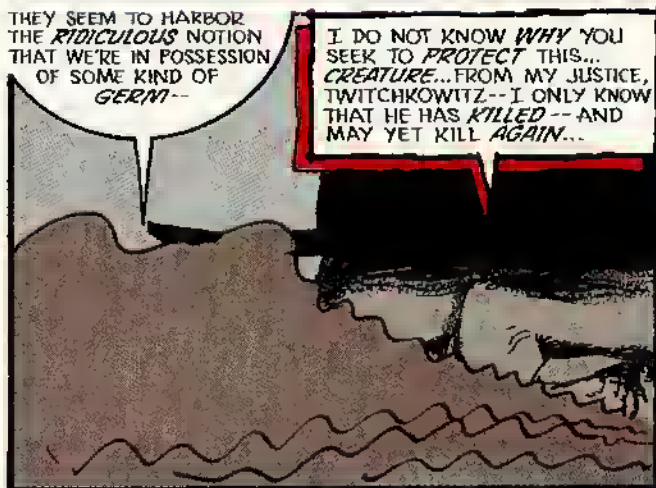
I THINK
THAT'S
HIM!

SURE
LOOKS LIKE
HIM.

YOU GONNA
TELL HIM
TO PUT
'IS HANDS
UP?

UH-UH.
NO WAY.

THEN IT'S
DEFINITELY
HIM.



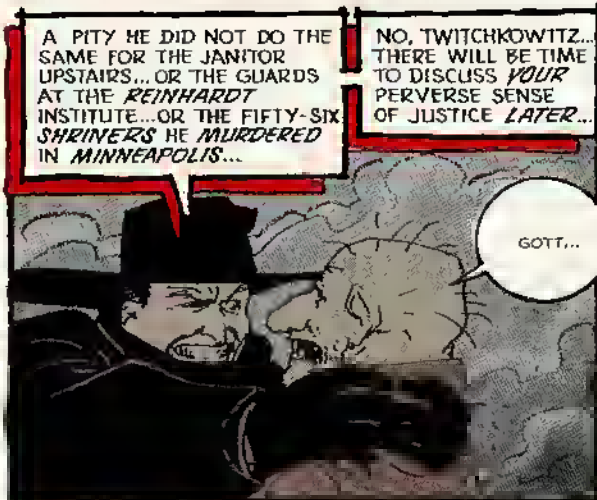
THEY SEEM TO HARBOR
THE *RIDICULOUS* NOTION
THAT WE'RE IN POSSESSION
OF SOME KIND OF
GERM--

I DO NOT KNOW *WHY* YOU
SEEK TO *PROTECT* THIS...
CREATURE...FROM MY JUSTICE,
TWITCHKOWITZ--I ONLY KNOW
THAT HE HAS *KILLED*--AND
MAY YET *KILL AGAIN*...



... AND FINALLY, THAT HE
MUST BE *STOPPED--NOW!*

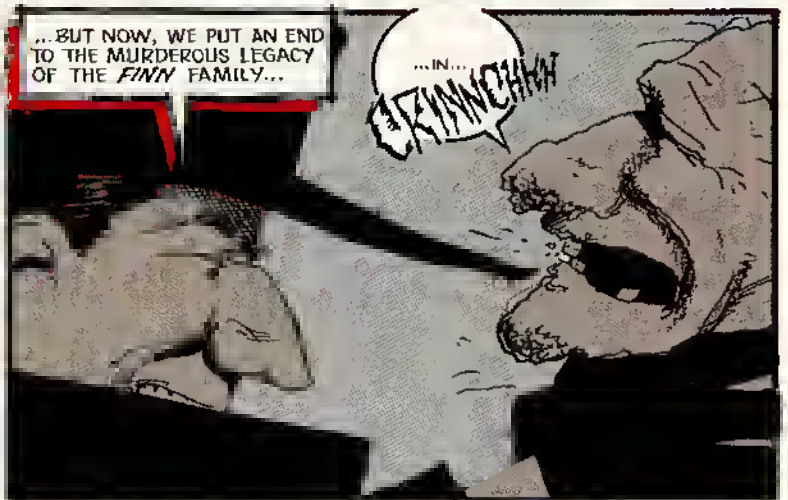
MASTER, PLEASE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
YOU CAN'T JUST KILL
HIM! HE-HE SAVED
MY LIFE!



A PITY HE DID NOT DO THE
SAME FOR THE JANITOR
UPSTAIRS...OR THE GUARDS
AT THE *REINHARDT*
INSTITUTE...OR THE FIFTY-SIX
SHRINERS HE *MURDERED*
IN *MINNEAPOLIS*...

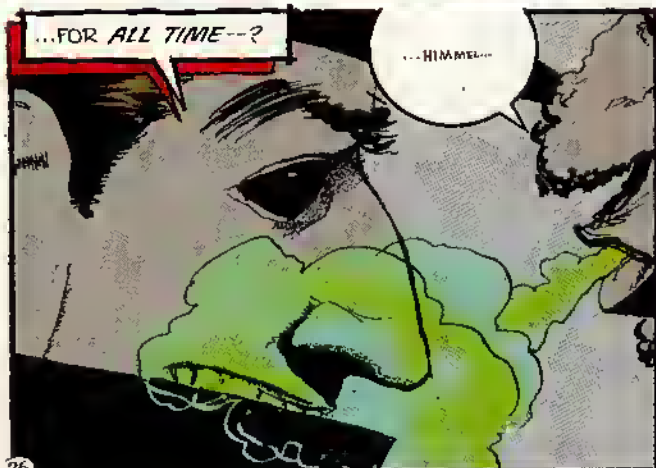
NO, TWITCHKOWITZ...
THERE WILL BE TIME
TO DISCUSS *YOUR*
PERVERSE SENSE
OF JUSTICE *LATER*...

GOTT...



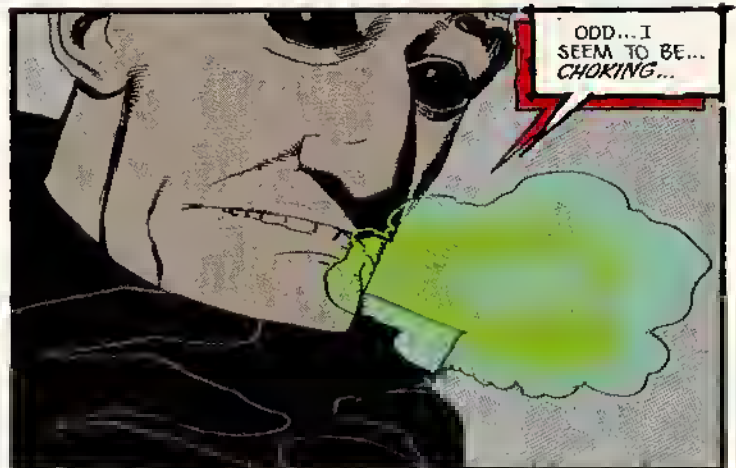
...BUT NOW, WE PUT AN END
TO THE MURDEROUS LEGACY
OF THE *FINN* FAMILY...

...IN...
ERINNCHHHH



...FOR *ALL TIME*--?

...HIMSEL--



ODD...I
SEEM TO BE...
CHOKING...

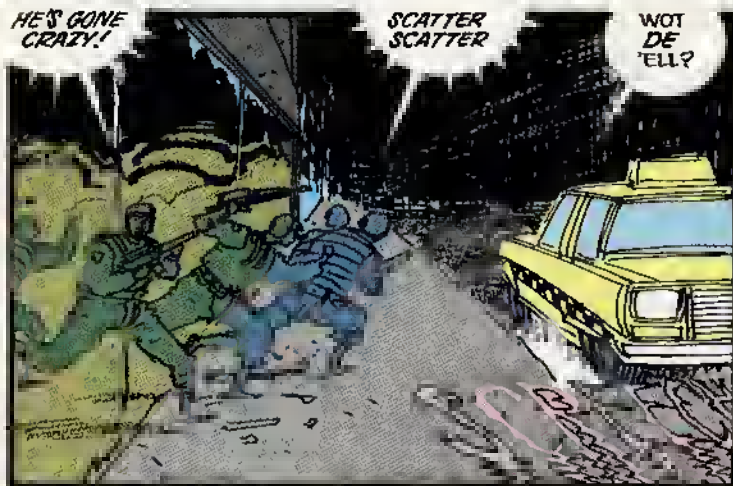


OH, DEAR... MASTER--
CAN I GET YOU...
SOMETHING --

--A GLASS
OF *WATER*,
PER--



HEAARD
HEAARD
HEAARD



HE'S GONE
CRAZY!

SCATTER
SCATTER

WOT
DE
'ELL?

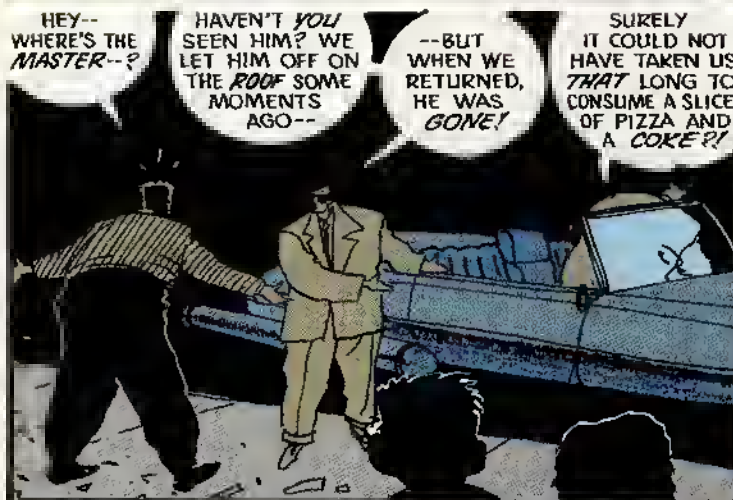


I N' I --
'IS SOME KINDA
RIOT
IN D'ERE!

COOL!
SURE GLAD I
BROUGHT MY
NOTEBOOK!

WELL,
JUDGING FROM
THE SMOKE
COMING OFF
THE ROOF, KID--
I'D SAY YOU
MISSED THE
BEST PART!

HERE COMES
THE CAVALRY...
RIGHT ON TIME...

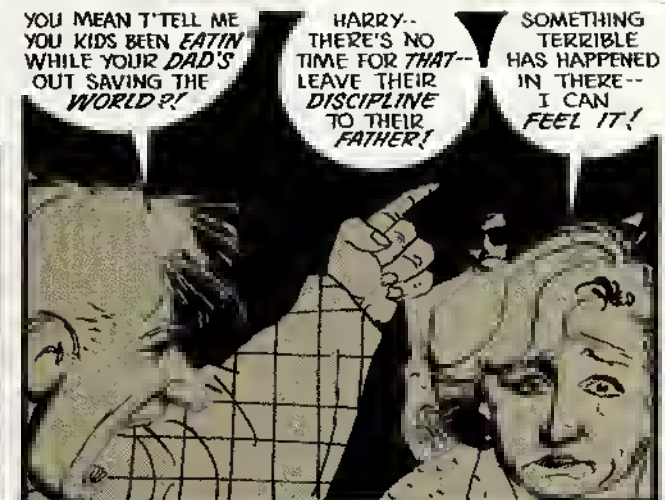


HEY--
WHERE'S THE
MASTER--?

HAVEN'T YOU
SEEN HIM? WE
LET HIM OFF ON
THE ROOF SOME
MOMENTS
AGO--

--BUT
WHEN WE
RETURNED,
HE WAS
GONE!

SURELY
IT COULD NOT
HAVE TAKEN US
THAT LONG TO
CONSUME A SLICE
OF PIZZA AND
A COKE?!



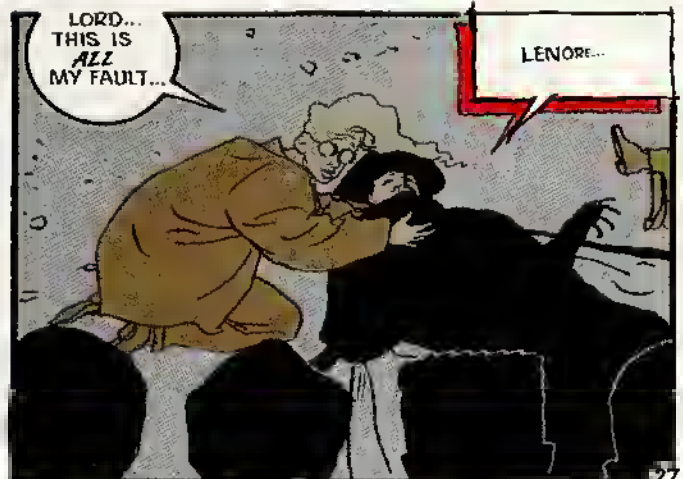
YOU MEAN T'TELL ME
YOU KIDS BEEN *EATIN'*
WHILE YOUR *DAD'S*
OUT SAVING THE
WORLD?!

HARRY--
THERE'S NO
TIME FOR *THAT*--
LEAVE THEIR
DISCIPLINE
TO THEIR
FATHER!

SOMETHING
TERRIBLE
HAS HAPPENED
IN THERE--
I CAN
FEEL IT!




OH MY GOD--



LORD...
THIS IS
ALL
MY FAULT...

LENORE...

A comic book cover illustration featuring a man in a dark jacket lying on the ground, looking up with a pained expression. A large, dark, shadowy figure looms over him. In the background, another person is visible, holding a notepad and looking down. A speech bubble from the shadowy figure says "HE-HE'S DEAD." The scene is set in a dark, possibly underground or industrial environment.

HE-HE'S DEAD.

THE SEVEN DEADLY FINNS: CONCLUSION

FINNALE!

ANDREW HELFER
WRITER

KYLE BAKER
ARTIST

BOB LAPPAN
LETTERER

TOM ZIUKO
COLORIST

RENÉE WITTERSTAETTER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR

the Shadow would have eventually caught up to anyway, right? So if the Prong Killer was doing what the Shadow would have done, he must have been doing the right thing in the Shadow's mind, right? The Shadow knows, doesn't he? One element of Andy's SHADOW plots that I especially like is the way he starts off with seemingly unconnected stories and eventually brings them together. This is starting already with the prong attack on Errol Finn (ha!) I am looking forward to seeing how "Seven Deadly Finns" develops.

The way you're portraying the agents is certainly an improvement—even over the original books. THE SHADOW is very much a team book—filled with interesting players ... though the Shadow himself should always dominate his people. While some of the older agents—like Margo and Harry—could have understandably developed independent streaks over the course of 30 years, the newer agents should remain loyal above all else. Let's see some of the backgrounds of the new agents, and what makes them serve the Master with such unequalled dedication.

Finally, thanks for creating the cover format and story format that you've given this series. Richard Bruning's work? By producing a series of long, fairly complete and self-contained stories—and by identifying them by title on the covers—you have given the series the feel of a series of novels, instead of the usual ongoing, endless story.

Oh, and cast my vote for no team-ups—except with Doc Savage, and only then if you have a good story.

Andrew M. Kaplan
Student Mailroom
Antioch College
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Oh, it'll be a good one, all right,
Andrew—whoops...

Dear Editor:

Issue #8 of THE SHADOW brings us Kyle Baker. Not a really great artist, but a touch above the sometimes indecipherable Bill Sienkiewicz. If he gets better with age, then you could have something here. Look at page 10 and the last page—just a glaring eye in a dark black panel—that is how the Shadow is supposed to look, and it's the type of panel that Mike Kaluta made a big splash with during the Shadow's last DC run. This Baker fellow does have possibilities.

On page 13, we see a fat, slothlike crook. That's always a good target for a decent artist. He grinds down his victims in the frankfurter vat (There was once a Chicago wife-killer who did just that in the gay Nineties, so it's not all that far out). We see a terrified punk/crook named Virgil—and the creeping shadow of ... guess whol Baker seems to have a flare for wide-open mouths. His best panels all have "Weirdo Mouths."

Shadow and Doc Savage together? I don't know. Doc seems too much of a

gentleman for the Shadow, they're like oil and water. Batman would be better—he's meaner.

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton Street
Brentwood, NY 11717

Shadow and Doc Savage together? Who says they have to be together in a team-up? Couldn't one guy just visit the other guy's title, do his deeds and go? Really—what if the Shadow were dead and—whoops, again!

Dear Andy and Kyle:

"Seeing red" was great. Very simple plot—but lots of openings to make it more complicated later.

Kyle Baker's art is terrific. What can I say about the cover? It sent a chill through me when I first glanced at it in my comic shop. One problem though. In earlier issues, the coloring was dark and mysterious—the way it should be—but in SHADOW #8 it seemed too bright, like a rainbow. Please, I don't think the coloring quite fits the mood of this comic.

On page 25, the Shadow says, "Prepare to die, murderer." Hmmmm, think about that for a while. Get my drift? I have no objections to the way the Shadow operates, it's just that he is a murderer, too. Perhaps he kills with a sense of justice—but he still kills. I found this to be quite hypocritical.

One other question. Why is this comic for mature readers? I don't see anything wrong with it except for the blood and killing. And there really isn't that much of it.

Thanks for your time.

Josh Abrams
State College, PA 16803

Dear Shadowmaniacs,

I love the current incarnation of the Shadow. In fact, it was through your comics that I discovered the Shadow fifteen years ago (no way, it can't be that long ago). I remember all the ads that proudly proclaimed that "the Shadow is coming," and going to the local 7-Eleven two or three times a day every day for weeks searching for that premiere issue. Then that grand and glorious day arrived, and my heart beat a martial cadence as I furiously pedaled my bike home to devour that first issue. Oh, how I devoured it. I read it forward and backward. My buddy John Dickerson and I drooled over the dark, gloomy, wonderful art by Mike Kaluta, and our ten-year-old brains were transplanted back to the Thirties. I clearly remember sitting on John's porch with a portable cassette recorder late that summer and recording our own radio play of that first issue, "The Doom Puzzle."

Not much more than a year ago, I happened on Howard Chaykin's new Shadow mini-series. I experienced nearly the same feeling of exhilaration as I did that hot August afternoon in 1973. I likewise devoured the series and waited patiently for the ongoing series.

It was worth the wait! Upon reading it every month, I break into a cold sweat and begin to foam at the mouth. The writing is first class, and the art ... mmmmm. I was severely disappointed when Bill Sienkiewicz left, but when I saw Kyle Baker's art on the latest two issues ... well, I nearly became unglued. Never since Kaluta has anyone so perfectly captured the spirit and mood of the Shadow. Just as Kaluta evoked the New York of the Thirties, Baker conjures visions of 1988 New York: dark, moody, sinister. My compliments, Kyle. Next to Kaluta, you are the definitive Shadow artist.

Now that I've finished reminiscing and kissing up (not that y'all don't deserve it, though), I've got a few questions:

1) Chaykin established the fact that the Shadow is Kent Allard, who "killed" Lamont Cranston and assumed his identity. However, in the first series, in issue #8, Cranston is shown to be alive and is one of the Shadow's agents, who allows the Shadow to borrow his identity when he sees fit. In that issue, Allard is shown to be a separate person. Since the *real* Cranston was "dead" at the time, how is it that he and Allard are shown as being two different people? Please don't cop out and say that the first series is not included in the present continuity.

2) At the end of the mini-series, Harry and Margo are shown necking in the background while the Shadow is telling his sons that he plans to stay in America. They have just helped the Shadow do away with Mayrock/Cranston. But in the first issue of the current series, they believe, as do most of the other agents, that the Shadow has been severely injured. Since they were in on the case, wouldn't they have known that the injured party was in fact the Cranston clone?

Well, I guess this has been a little long-winded, but I'm almost done. Just a few requests. *Don't* do any Shadow team-ups, unless they are with Doc Savage or The Avenger. *Do* make a second series or limited series of the Shadow's 1930s and 1940s exploits. *Do* reprint the 1970s series in a deluxe format (at least the Kaluta issues). *Do* try to get Mike Kaluta back for at least an issue or two, or next year's annual. *Don't* ever lose Kyle Baker. And lastly, *do* keep up the excellent work. You've got a reader for life. Later, dudes.

Mark G. Reznicek
8827 Timbercliff
San Antonio, TX 78250

Answers:

1) *Weren't there some kind of clones involved in Chaykin's series, Mark?*

2) *Pretty much only Twitch was under the impression that the Shadow was injured. The others didn't believe it—but their concern stemmed from the knowledge that where the Shadow is concerned, ya never know...*

NEXT ISSUE: The Shadow is dead. Period.

FASCIST
BRITAIN 1997.
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU
CAN'T BEAT THE SYSTEM
... EVERYONE BUT V.

V FOR VENDETTA

A ten issue series by
ALAN MOORE & DAVID LLOYD
Completing the original series from 1982
in Deluxe Format & Full Process Color
Starting in May
Suggested for Mature Readers

